



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

*Information from the Accomplishment
Reporting System for June 30 - July 31, 2002*

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Inside This Issue

**Region Conducts Airboat Safety Training on Army Base
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Regional Airboat Safety Course Gets Off to a Flying Start

Armored personnel carriers, tanks, mine sweepers, helicopters and artillery guns are an everyday sight to Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers who train at Camp Ripley in central Minnesota. What most would consider a unique sight is commonplace at Camp Ripley and barely draws a second look from the troops. However, when a caravan of white U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service trucks towing five airboats rolled through the camp, it attracted the attention of most everyone.

The Service was at Camp Ripley during the week of July 15, to conduct an Airboat Safety Certification Course for Region 3 employees who operate airboats as part of their official duties. Recent changes in DOI and Service safety regulations require airboat operators to go through an initial eight-hour safety and operation certification course and have 40 hours of supervised driving time before they are allowed to operate an airboat alone. The new requirements also include a refresher

course every five years. This was the first time the Region has conducted the course and they plan to offer it as needed to ensure all operators have gone through the initial training.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Winona District Manager Bob Drieslein, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge Assistant Manager Dave Bennett, Upper Mississippi - McGregor District Assistant Manager Clyde Male, Upper Mississippi - LaCrosse District Refuge Operations Specialist Bill Thrune, Special Agent John Decker and Genoa National Fish Hatchery Maintenance Worker Dan Kumlin developed, coordinated and instructed the course. Bennett said the Service chose Camp Ripley as the training site for several reasons. "We can't conduct this training on public water because we need to set up obstacle courses and we were concerned that recreational boaters may interfere with the training. Also, these boats are pretty loud and when you get five of them running at



- Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Army National Guard

Dave Bennett, assistant manager at Agassiz NWR, helped organize the course and acted as one of the instructors.

the same time in a small location, it can be overwhelming." Camp Ripley allowed the Service to conduct its training on a lake closed to public access. "This worked out great," said Bennett. "The camp is centrally located, so it allows people from across the Region to attend and we have the entire lake basically to ourselves."

Marty Skoglund, Camp Ripley environmental supervisor, was glad the Service and the National Guard could partner on this project. "We work with the Service to manage the Camp's wolf population and with other wildlife and environmental projects," Skoglund said. "I'm glad we could provide them with the resources and training area they needed to do their job safely."



Students practice deep water, shallow water and marsh driving techniques, as well maneuvering around obstacles and crossing small areas of dry land.

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There are 21 airboats located at field stations across Region 3. The boats are mainly used for biological surveys, research projects, law enforcement and to collect waterfowl or fish that have died.



Each student was able to spend time one-on-one with an instructor during the class. Operators must have 40 hours of supervised driving time before they can "solo" with the airboat.



Airboats can also maneuver over small areas of solid ground.

Twenty-two Region 3 employees from stations in Minnesota and Wisconsin attended the course that included a three-hour classroom session and five hours at the lake for hands-on training. "We go through all the basics of safety, maintenance, operations, loading and unloading, as well as safe trailering techniques in the classroom," said lead instructor Bob Drieslein. "Then we take the students and boats out to the lake and have them actually do it."

As part of the course, students operated the airboat while an onboard instructor evaluated their performance. Students loaded and unloaded the boat, navigated through an obstacle course, crossed over small islands, practiced shallow and deep water operations, navigated through heavy vegetation and turned in confined areas.

Region 3 has 21 airboats at various locations. The Service uses airboats for biological surveys, research projects, law enforcement, to collect waterfowl or fish that have died and even for the occasional search and rescue operation. Airboats are often the only way Service employees can access swamps, marshes and low-depth areas of rivers and lakes.

A second certification course was held July 30 - 31 in Illinois for 24 students. Additional classes will be scheduled next year. *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*



While the airboat training was being conducted, the National Guard also used the lake to help train helicopter pilots to load water buckets for fire fighting operations.

- Photos courtesy of the Minnesota Army National Guard

State Committee Chairs Kick-off Centennial Planning Effort

Planning and organization efforts for a celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial in Region 3 took a large step forward with the recent formation of committees for each the region's eight states. Committee chairpersons kicked off the Centennial planning during a organization meeting July 31 at the Regional Office.

As part of a region-wide celebration, the state committees were formed in June to bring the Centennial celebration to the states. The committees are led by a refuge manager or refuge staff person and include members of each field office in the state, including fisheries, ecological services, law enforcement and private lands.

The regional management team showed its support for state Centennial

efforts by taking time to address the committee chairs and offering the support of their programs toward the overall success of Centennial events and projects in the states. Attendees also received tips on how to work with congressional offices and staffs from Jane West, legislative affairs specialist. Contracting guidance was provided by Bob Hanson and Clark Bartelt from the Division of Contracting and General Services.

State committees are charged with planning Centennial events for each state, including a large state-wide focus event during the Centennial year, which runs from March 14, 2003 to March 14, 2004. The committees will provide a comprehensive list of events to the Region in mid-September. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*



- USFWS Photo by Chuck Traxler

The Region 3 State Committee Leaders take a break from their planning session in the Regional Office to pose with Puddles. Back row left to right: Scott Flaherty, External Affairs; Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR (MI); Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR (MO); Lee Herzberger, Muscatatuck NWR (IN); Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR (WI). Front row: Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR (MN); Rebecca Hinkle, Ottawa NWR (OH); Puddles the Blue Goose; Nancy Gilbertson, Neal Smith NWR (IA); and Rick Frietsche, Crab Orchard NWR, filling in for Pam Steinhaus, Upper Miss. NWR (IL).

Fish Population Survey Conducted at Whittlesey Creek Refuge



- USFWS photo

Ashland FRO Biologist Frank Stone (left) and Wisconsin DNR Biologist Bill Blust assisted in the fish population survey on the refuge.

Six days of barge shocking and backpack electrofishing surveys were conducted in Whittlesey Creek to obtain population estimates for salmon and trout species. Staff members from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ashland Fishery Resources Office and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge joined efforts to collect this important fish population information. Data collected help determine if coaster brook trout can be reintroduced into Whittlesey Creek. This survey was part of the Lake Superior restoration plan to restore coaster brook trout in Lake Superior and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

Once collected, the fish were fin clipped, length data was recorded and they were returned to the creek. Additional population estimates will be scheduled again next summer.

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Chicago Field Office Discovers Increase in the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Populations

The last week of June and the first week of July are when the federally threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucopaea*) typically flowers and is easiest to find. This short window of time is crucial to the staff of the Chicago Field Office, as it is the best time to collect demographic information and to hand-pollinate the orchid. Hand pollination of the orchid is conducted to increase seed production of this threatened species. Last year, two out of the three sites yielded 19 individual plants each; this year, one of those sites had 51 plants and another site had a whopping 84 plants. Needless to say, the staff could have used an extra week of

time for pollination, but they were still able to complete the task. The increase in population from 19 plants to 84 plants shows that something must be going right, but no one can say exactly what. Possibilities for the abrupt one-year increase are likely weather or pollinator related.

Along with the regularly scheduled hand pollination efforts this year, Chicago Field Office staff assessed existing habitat conditions and used a new Global Positioning System unit to plot polygons of potential orchid habitat. This information will be downloaded to create more accurate habitat location maps of federally threatened and endangered species. Currently, the office is working to plot all federally threatened or endangered species sites within the six counties surrounding Chicago.

In addition to the hand pollination



- USFWS photo by Cathy Pollack

Chicago Field Office Student Kristy Mielcarek carefully hand pollinates an eastern prairie fringed orchid.



- USFWS photo

The eastern prairie fringed orchid produces flower stalks up to 47 inches tall with up to 40 white flowers about one inch long on each stalk. The flower occurs in fewer than 60 sites, mostly east of the Mississippi River.

and collection of demographic data that the Chicago Field Office conducts, June Keibler and The Nature Conservancy have organized an army of volunteers to carry out the same work on other orchid sites for the last nine years. This cooperation with the Chicago office has led to an increase in the number and distribution of the eastern prairie fringed orchid. Thanks to the commitment of volunteers, researchers, county and state partners and employees of the Chicago Field Office, recovery efforts for the eastern prairie fringed orchid continues with success.

Cathy Pollack, Chicago FO

Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, To Learn About Surface Mining We Go



- USFWS photo

Staff members from the Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Office visited an active mine to gain a better understanding of how mines can effect fish and wildlife resources.

In order to get a closer look at surface mining projects, Reynoldsburg Ohio Field Office staff along with Office of Surface Mining staff, participated in a tour of an active surface mining site near the town of Adamsville, located in southeastern Ohio.

The mining company led the group through various phases of mining, from pre-mining conditions to active mining sites to reclamation areas. Use of various machinery for mining

such as drag-lines and augers were observed, along with the techniques and machinery utilized in reclamation procedures.

The visit was educational and will lead to improved coordination regarding mining activities and the Service. *Myra Miyoshi, Reynoldsburg FO*

Lake Erie Water Snakes Return to Green Island

Researchers and biologists have confirmed that Lake Erie water snakes, a federally listed threatened species, have returned to Green Island, the first confirmed sightings in more than 20 years. Green Island is a 17.1-acre island located one mile west of South Bass Island in Lake Erie, Ohio.

The snake is found only in the western basin of Lake Erie and resides on the limestone islands found in this area. Most of Green Island is owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife, which manages it as a wildlife refuge. Surveys of the island in the 1930s and 1940s identified the snake on the island; however, repeated surveys in the 1980s and 1990s found that the snake had been extirpated. On a visit to the island this July, researchers from Northern Illinois University and Service employees captured 10 Lake Erie water snakes and implanted them with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags, and observed nine more snakes that were not captured.

The majority of snakes caught on

the island were females. Females are more likely to be basking in the sun this time of year, because they need the heat of the sun to digest their food and for growth and development of their young. Researchers can only guess why the snakes may have disappeared from the island, or why they have now returned. Small islands are highly susceptible to extinction events, meaning that one drastic event can wipe out an entire population. Recent increases in the snake's population at South Bass Island State Park could have resulted in snakes immigrating to Green Island and establishing a

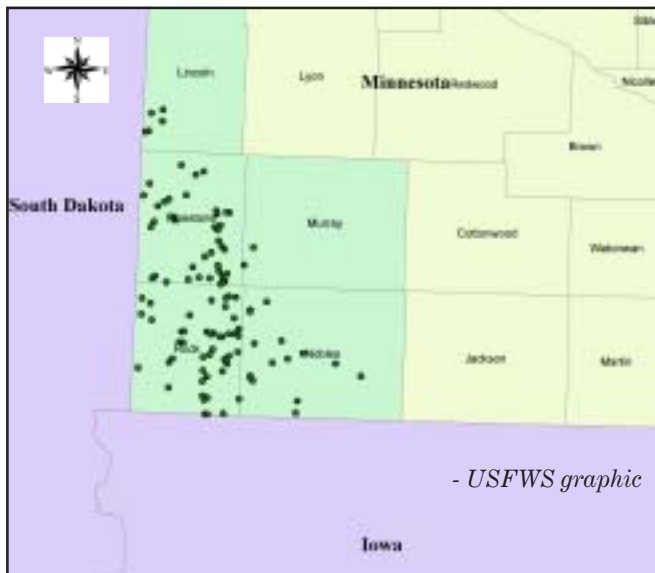


- USFWS photo

Reynoldsburg Field Office Biologist Megan Seymour (right) holds a water snake while a researcher from Northern Illinois University injects it with a PIT tag. The tag allows researchers to study the snake's movement.

reproducing population. Although we do not always understand the snakes' behavior, one thing is certain, the snakes have returned to Green Island. *Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO*

Twin Cities ES Biologists Discuss Topeka Shiner Critical Habitat Proposal



- USFWS graphic

Twin Cities Field Office's Field Supervisor Dan Stinnett and Endangered Species Coordinator Phil Delphey conducted a two-day, six-county tour of southwest Minnesota, July 22-23, to meet with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil

Minnesota counties with existing Topeka shiner populations.

and Water Conservation District staff to provide information about the pending proposal of critical habitat for Topeka shiner.

During these meetings, Stinnett and Delphey provided information about the regulatory effect of critical habitat designation, what this would mean to private landowners, and provided some details regarding the proposal, which is slated for August 2002. They also discussed specific actions that landowners and agencies could pursue to conserve this endangered prairie fish. *Dan Stinnett, Twin Cities FO*

Wisconsin Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Monitoring Indicates Success

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program began in Wisconsin in 1987 and to date has completed more than 5,000 grassland and wetland restoration projects on more than 21,000 acres of private land. Monitoring of project success has been conducted as time permitted by project biologists, but a systematic statewide evaluation has not been undertaken until recently.

This report summarizes the results of a monitoring and program assessment project that used both landowner surveys and field visits to evaluate habitat quality and landowner acceptance of the Partners Program.

In 2001, 351 program participants were randomly selected from throughout the state and were sent a landowner survey.

Eighty percent of the surveys received by landowners were completed and returned. Site visits were conducted from May to November for those landowners indicating an interest in participating in the study. Project sizes in the study ranged from 0.5 acres to 41 acres, with the majority of projects in the one-to-10 acre range.

Site specific variables that were evaluated included: number of failed

projects and their causes; floristic diversity; vegetative quality; wildlife use; wetland class and hydrology; adjacent land use; and, practices applied.

Sixty-eight percent of the landowners responded that they were fully satisfied with their participation in the Partners program. Eleven percent were not satisfied, many of these involved wetland restorations that seasonally dry out or prairie plantings that failed to establish. Eighty-nine percent of respondents plan to maintain their projects beyond the expiration of the project agreement. Fifty-eight percent believed they had additional habitat restoration opportunities on their land. Grassland projects had a success rate of 58 percent with the primary cause of failure being competition from non-native grasses and legumes or invasive weed species. Wetland projects showed significantly higher success with 81 percent fully or partially successful.



Damage and failure was due to four causes in roughly equal proportion:

1. structural failure from muskrat or beaver damage;
2. poor design or construction methods;
3. soil structure and permeability that yields weak or absent wetland hydrology; or,
4. management influences such as excessive grazing/trampling, conversion to deep pond, etc.

Wetland projects were categorized as either restoration, enhancement or type conversion. Approximately 28 percent of the projects were restoration only, 64 percent restoration and/or enhancement and eight percent conversion of wetland type. Completed wetlands were shallow emergent or deep-water marsh (74 percent), wet meadow or low prairie (18 percent) and shrub or forested (eight percent). Landowners reported high wildlife use, especially for migratory birds. Waterfowl broods were observed during the survey on 21 percent of all wetlands, one acre or larger, during the brood-rearing period (May -August) and a total of 33 bird species were recorded on all monitored sites. *James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Office*



- USFWS photo

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologists work directly with landowners to develop management plans that meet the needs of the landowner and wildlife. The land remains in private ownership.

Minnesota Celebrates Latest Winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Content

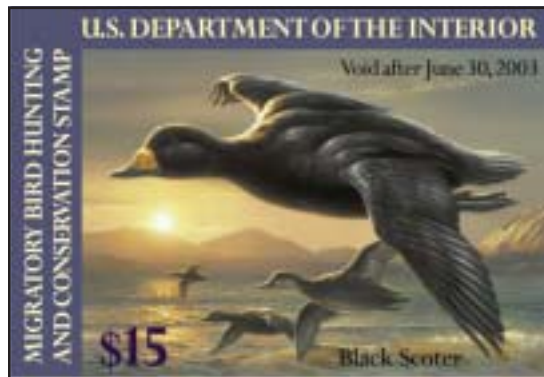
The Home State Ceremony for Minnesota resident Joe Hautman, winner of the 2002-2003 Federal Duck Stamp contest, was held July 10, at the Wild Marsh Golf Club near Buffalo, Minn.

The Home State Ceremony traditionally follows the annual First Day of Sale, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is held July 1 in Washington, D.C., to honor the Federal Duck Stamp artist.

The Minnesota Home State Ceremony for Hautman consisted of a golf tournament, a silent auction, dinner and a ceremony to recognize his accomplishment in winning the Federal Duck Stamp design contest.

The Home State Ceremony, in cooperation with conservation partners, also generates funds for a habitat project chosen by the artist.

Hautman carries on a tradition of excellence for Minnesota wildlife artists. Artists born or raised in Minnesota have now won 18 times, including 12 times in the past 23



2002-2003 Federal Waterfowl Stamp.
Joesph Hautman Artist

years, in this highly competitive national contest. Joe, along with two of his brothers, Bob and Jim, have contributed significantly to this record: All are multiple winners, and between them they have won seven of the last 13 contests.

Partners who contributed to this

successful event included the Hautman Brothers, Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Turn in Poachers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Providing gifts for fund-raising were Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Pheasants Forever and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Duck Stamp Office.

The event attracted 62 golfers, and almost 120 guests attended the dinner and ceremony. Funds raised during the event will be matched by partners, then submitted for a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant to assist the Joe Hautman Habitat Restoration Project.

Mike McGinty, executive director of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, was the master of ceremonies for the evening's program. Speakers included Bill Hartwig, regional director of the Service; Fred Naaktgeboren, mayor of Buffalo; Vaughn Collins, newly appointed chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Office; Bill Anderson, president of the Lake Minnetonka Stamp Club; and Mark Chase, manager of the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District.

The evening closed with the artist thanking the committee for such a wonderful celebration along with the numerous contributions made, as well as autographing stamps cancelled that evening by the U.S. Postal Service.

The Joe Hautman Federal Duck Stamp Ceremony and Golf Tournament will assist in the restoration of land purchased by the Service. During the presentation by Chase, he explained how the restoration project will be conducted.

The 350-acre federal tract will be



- USFWS photo by Scott Flaherty

Winning artist Joe Hautman talked about his appreciation of waterfowl and thanked guests for attending. Funds raised by this event will help restore waterfowl habitat in Minnesota.

managed as a waterfowl production area (WPA) after it is restored. Located in Becker County, the WPA will be open to public recreation, including hunting, wildlife observation, hiking and photography.

An estimated 25 wetlands and approximately 300 acres of native grassland will be restored on the WPA to enhance habitat for waterfowl, ground-nesting birds and resident wildlife.

The Joe Hautman Habitat Restoration Project, one-half mile from the Jim Hautman Habitat Restoration Project, links a habitat corridor from Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge, on the south, with Helliksen Prairie WPA, on the north, to other waterfowl production areas and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife management areas.

Since the 1780s, approximately 42 percent (6.4 million acres of wetlands) of Minnesota's original 15-million-plus acres of wetlands have been drained. Lands purchased by the Service using Federal Duck Stamp revenues generally require extensive construction to alter man-made drainage and development impacts. *Anne Shea, External Affairs*

Biological Control of Leafy Spurge Successful at Fergus Falls WMD

No leafy spurge was sprayed this year on Fergus Falls Wetland Management District lands!

Refuge Manager Kevin Brennan said that in the past 26 years that he has been in refuges, he does not recall one year that the refuge he was on did not spray leafy spurge. He also stated that 20 years ago he would not have believed this possible.

All previously sprayed sites and all previous bio-control sites were monitored. Nearly 140 sites were checked, evaluated and ranked for spurge beetle releases. Fifty-eight of the sites monitored were prior releases, and four of those sites were supplemented with more beetles. Sixty-one new releases were made including the four supplemental sites. A total of 199,500 beetles were released on those 61 sites.

Sixteen more sites were evaluated for future releases; right now, the patches of spurge were not large enough to sustain a population of beetles.

These patches for future release will be allowed to grow over the next couple years and, when large enough, beetles will be released on them.

All of the beetles released were harvested from five former release sites and many of those sites will be harvested again next year. Another 71,000 beetles were collected and given to Wilkin County via a cooperative agreement.

Staff put great effort into the leafy spurge monitoring and releases this year. "We have successfully become self-sufficient for biological control of leafy spurge," said Brennan. "We produce our own beetles, harvest our own beetles and relocate our own beetles to new spurge sites and are doing enough of it that we can discontinue

spraying this highly invasive noxious weed."

Many release sites that were filled with leafy spurge no longer have any spurge on them at all. Staff will continue to monitor these sites to determine what happens after the spurge is gone.

Although this seems like a great success, many questions still remain. Can a site sustain a small population of beetles and then explode after



- USFWS photo by Stacy Salvevold

These before (top) and after photo show how beetles can effectively eliminate leafy spurge.

seeds begin to germinate again? Do beetles survive at all after they wipe out a patch of spurge?

The Service hopes these sites will provide answers. For now, the district is not spraying leafy spurge, and the weeds are slowly being eradicated from Service land by tiny flea beetles

Brennan added, "Flea beetles are truly a spectacular success story for noxious weed biological control." *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD*



- USFWS photo

Hungry, Hungry Beetles

A Family Tradition -- Other Winning Federal Duck Stamps by The Hautman Family



1990-1991 Stamp by James Hautman



1992-1993 Stamp by Joseph Hautman



1995-1996 Stamp by James Hautman



1997-1998 Stamp by Robert Hautman



1999-2000 Stamp by James Hautman



2001-2002 Stamp by Robert Hautman

Two Rivers Refuge Begins Initial Swan Lake Drawdown

A wildlife habitat enhancement project is underway at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge that will improve future conditions for fish and wildlife at Swan Lake in Calhoun County, Ill. As one of the largest backwater lakes along the Illinois River, Swan Lake was historically a haven for resident fish and wildlife as well as a valuable stopover for wetland-dependant migrating birds.

Construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the lock and dam system on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers resulted in the flooding of many shallow water areas, including the Swan Lake wetland complex, and changed the area from a diverse mosaic of wetlands to one continuous deep water lake. This project will allow Refuge staff to recreate the historic shallow water conditions on 2,600 acres in the heart of the Mississippi River flyway.

"We are attempting to restore a habitat condition that hasn't existed for at least a few decades. No one has seen the bottom of Swan Lake since the original lock and dam #26 was completed in the late 1930s," said Refuge Manager John Mabery.

Long term benefits of this en-

hancement project should include vast improvement in the Lake's fishery resources, which currently supports almost entirely rough fish like Asian carp, shad and gar. Through consolidation of the sediments in the lake bottom, the increased emergent vegetation, and improved water quality, this project should make the area more attractive to a variety of fish species including sport fish such as bass, bluegill and crappie. Once reconnected, the lake's fish population will be replenished by fish re-entering from the Illinois River.

One of the short-term benefits is the thousands of acres of shallow water and mud flats created during the drawdown. These mud flats have attracted large numbers of wading birds and shorebirds like herons, egrets and sandpipers.

This drawdown effort follows



- USFWS photo

Large pumps are installed to allow the refuge to control water levels

completion of a joint project between the Service, Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that will allow managers to control water levels in Swan Lake and the adjoining Fuller Lake and reduce sedimentation entering the Illinois River. Using water control structures installed as part of the project, seasonal variations in water levels which no longer occur naturally can be imitated. Periodic drawdowns of lake levels will solidify the lake bottom, improve aquatic plant production and reduce turbid water conditions.

Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR



Controlling the water level allows managers to restore 2,600 acres to natural shallow water and mud flat conditions.



- USFWS photos

Only a few weeks after the initial drawdown, native vegetation began to grow and large numbers of wading and shorebirds moved into the area.

First-Ever Region 3 Visitor Services Workshop Held at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Visitor services professionals from every state in Region 3 gathered at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, in Fergus Falls, Minn., during the last week of June for the first Visitor Services Workshop held in the Region. More than 65 representatives from refuges and wetland management districts attended presentations and participated in small group discussions all focused on how to better the visitor experience on Service lands.

Sessions on volunteers, friends groups and other partners, special events, environmental education, interpretation and how to work with

law enforcement were enthusiastically received and generated many small-group discussions to share successes and solve problems. The attendees consisted of project leaders, park rangers, outdoor recreation planners, volunteers and regional office staff – each bringing a unique perspective to the group.

Regional Chief of Refuges Nita Fuller led a motivating discussion on the Centennial and had the entire group fired up to make 2003 a year full of special programs and events to raise the profile of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Regional Chief of Visitor Services Donna Stanek presented a practical session on career paths for visitor services

professionals. And George Hoffman -- long-time “friend” of Region 3 -- gave an update on the progress of Friends Groups on a



Of course there was time for a little fun too.



- USFWS photos

Refuge Supervisors Don Hultman (left) and Jim Leach thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed that visitor services are more important than ever as the Centennial approaches.

local, regional and national level.

Perhaps the most productive aspect of the entire workshop was the opportunity to share successes and problem solve with such a diverse group. Between regional office staff volunteers and field personnel, the entire group left with a renewed enthusiasm and commitment to enhancing the visitor experience in the National Wildlife Refuge System. *Ken Garrahan, PWLC*



Refuge Chief Nita Fuller had a chance to talk one-on-one with Charlie Marshall, Squaw Creek NWR, and many other visitor services professionals during the workshop.

Where's Puddles?



- USFWS photo

Rice Lake NWR recently had Puddles attend the Aitkin, Minn., County Fair. *Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR*



- USFWS photo

Puddle also oversaw the July 23 “Jr. Refuge Manager Academy” graduation held at Shiawassee NWR. *Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*



- USFWS photo by Cindy Myer

Puddles even managed to find some quiet time and took a walk with DeSoto NWR Volunteer Steve Tyler (left) and a visitor during the refuge's 2nd Annual Refugefest. *Cindy Myer, DeSoto NWR*

Maryville University Students Study "Life on the Mississippi"

Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge was one of many stops for Maryville University environmental education students studying "Life on the Mississippi." Course instructor Nadine Ball arranged a 10-day, 83 river-mile canoe trip down the Mississippi River to show the complexities of environmental issues with an emphasis on the interactions between social/cultural, economic and ecological needs along the river. As part of the trip, students had the opportunity

to visit and tour communities, businesses, conservation areas and other sites to learn about their history, purpose and impact related to the Mississippi.

Assistant Manager Candy Chambers presented information about the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Great River/Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuges. Information presented included the impacts and management of the refuge as it relates to the Mississippi River, in addition to an overview of the current studies conducted at the refuge. Florence Cocayne, student intern for the study of secretive marshbirds on the refuge, provided a demonstration of the call broadcast survey technique and took the group into a moist soil unit in search for nests. The group had the opportunity to view a king rail, red-winged blackbird and sedge wren nest, but was unsuccessful in finding the nest of a least bittern which flushed from a clump of common bur-reed.

Candace Chambers, Great River NWR



- USFWS photo

Assistant Refuge Manager Candy Chambers (right) talks about the issues facing the Clarence Cannon NWR.

Seney Refuge Celebrates Two Birthdays on One Day



- USFWS Photo

Seney National Wildlife Refuge helped celebrate America's birthday and promote the upcoming National Wildlife Refuge System birthday at three separate 4th of July celebrations.

Refuge staff, volunteers and interns, as well as members of the Seney Natural History Association, helped make a Centennial float that was shown in the three parades. Staff also had the chance to talk with local residents about the refuge system.

The float was seen by an estimated 9,000 people. *Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR*

Backyard Wildlife Exhibit on Display at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

A backyard wildlife exhibit was recently completed at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, Wis. The Service, a partner at the center, developed the display for the center. The display encourages people to create wildlife habitat in their backyard, no matter the size, and ties backyard wildlife habitat to our system of national wildlife refuges. A refuge system Centennial message is included. Service student employee, Frank Nebenburgh, developed the display.

More than 100,000 people visit

the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center each year. Most are tourists who are seeking information about Lake Superior and recreational opportunities in and around the region -- a unique opportunity for the refuge to educate a sector of the public we often cannot reach.

The center also provides natural and cultural history about the upper Great Lakes. The Service's headquarters for Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge is located at the center. *Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR*



- USFWS photo

A new display and Whittlesey Creek NWR encourages visitors to turn their backyard into a refuge.

Fishery Survey Conducted at Big Stone Refuge Finds Increased Fish Populations

Heidi Roesler and Scott Yess of the La Crosse Fisheries Resource Office assisted Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge Manager Brett Wehrle with a fishery survey conducted on the refuge.

The refuge's east pool was electrofished and both gill and trap nets were also deployed. Results indicated a noticeable increase in the number and size of game species such as walleye, largemouth bass and northern pike. This increase could be attributed to the mild winters southern Minnesota has experienced over the last few years.

Additional sites were added on tributaries to the east pool for this survey and will remain as part of the long-term monitoring program. The survey is part of an effort to monitor non-game species population trends on the refuge to help form management options. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*



- USFWS Photo

Heidi Roesler and Scott Yess of the LaCrosse FRO display one of the walleye's captured, assessed and released at Big Stone NWR.

Big Oaks Refuge Completes Butterfly Survey - Record High Numbers Reported

Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge completed a North American Butterfly Association count on July 20th.

The North American Butterfly Association organizes the July count to monitor population size and geographical distributions of specific butterfly species. Count methodology requires a 15-mile diameter circle to be used as the count area. Refuge staff and 15 volunteers braved the extreme heat to count butterflies on the refuge.

A record number of 47 species and 2,915 individual butterflies were found. The number of individual butterflies found during the refuge survey almost doubled the number of butterflies counted by another Indiana survey group.

The abundance of butterflies on the refuge is a reflection of the high quality habitat and sound management practices utilized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR*



- USFWS photo

Big Oaks NWR in southern Indiana counted a record number of butterflies during a July 20 North American Butterfly Association count.

A Message From the Inside Region 3 Editor

I would like to thank all the dedicated field staff who continue to send in timely reports and high quality photos. I wish I could highlight every story and every photo sent in, unfortunately there just is not enough room.

I use as many reports and photos as I can in order to highlight a wide variety of programs and field stations in each issue.

If you send in a report or photo and it does not get used for the Inside Region 3, remember that accomplishment reports are still maintained in the system. These reports are used by supervisors, managers and Regional Office staff for many different reports and informational products distributed within the Service as well as to our friends, partners and members of Congress. The photos are also maintained in a library and used for many purposes.

So, keep entering reports and sending me photos...they will help us succeed in our mission of conserving fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats.

Inside Region 3 Tip:

Reports must be timely to be included in the Inside Region 3. Each issue runs about one month behind. i.e., This issue includes only those reports with an accomplishment date (not the date you submit the report) from June 30 - July 31. The next issue will include reports with accomplishment dates of July 31 - August 31. *Reports outside these time frames are less likely to be included.*

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between June 30 and July 31, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

DCR Staff Provides EEO Training to Mingo Job Corps and Mingo Refuge

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Financial Training for Administrative Professionals

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

July Diversity Report

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, Service and Office of Surface Mining Hit the Mines

Myra Miyoshi, Reynoldsburg FO

Service Helps Coast Guard Keep Lake Huron Sport Fishers Safe

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

State Committee Chairs Kickoff Centennial Planning Effort

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Fish Population Estimate Conducted for Whittlesey Creek

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Park Opening and Habitat Restoration Completed in Saginaw Bay Watershed

Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

Centennial Celebration Eyeing 'Wild Night at the Wild'

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Design for New Stocking Vessel Reviewed

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Alpena FRO Staff Present to Exchange Club

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Diversity Report

Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

Maryville University Students Study "Life on the Mississippi"

Candace Chambers, Great River NWR

Kids' Fishing Clinic Held at Green Point Environmental Learning Center

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Mosquito Run at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Chicago Field Office Discovers Increase in the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Populations

Cathy Pollack, Chicago FO

External Affairs Upgrades News Dissemination System

Chuck Traxler, External Affairs

Inside Region 3 Continues to Inform Public, Partners and Congress

Chuck Traxler, External Affairs

Malformed Frog Surveys Conducted at Fergus Falls Wetland District

Judy Edwards, Twin Cities FO

Lake Erie Water Snakes Return to Green Island

Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO

First-Ever Junior Refuge Manager Academy at Shiawassee Refuge Graduates Nine Students

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Twin Cities ES Biologists Discuss Topeka Shiner Critical Habitat Proposal

Dan Stinnett, Twin Cities FO

Fish Collection on Shacte Creek Helps Maintain Healthy Fish Stocks

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Big Oaks Refuge Completes Butterfly Survey - Record High Numbers Reported

Jason Lewis, Big Oaks NWR

Wisconsin Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Monitoring Indicates Success

James Ruwaldt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Hosts Earth Stewards Workshop

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Fishery Survey Conducted at Big Stone Refuge Finds Increased Fish Populations

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

EA Helps Coordinate Press Conference, Logistic Support During Director's Visit to Minnesota

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Backyard Wildlife Exhibit on Display at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR

Regional Airboat Safety Course Gets Off to a Flying Start

Chuck Traxler, External Affairs

Upward Mobility Position

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Service Joins Black River Falls Community for Karner Blue Butterfly Festival

Michael Engel, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

continued next page

Metzger Marsh is the Focus of "Wild Ohio"

Susan Wells, Ottawa NWR

Outreach - Asian Carp Press Event in Chicago

Georgia Parham, External Affairs

Muscatatuck Refuge Hosts Take A Kid Fishing Event

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Friends of Horicon Refuge Celebrate Their First Birthday

Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

Muscatatuck and Big Oaks Refuges Host Centennial Exhibit at Jennings County Fair

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Biological Control of Leafy Spurge Successful at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Congressional Representatives Briefed on Habitat Conservation Planning on Kelleys Island, Ohio

Mary Knapp, Reynoldsburg FO

ABA Establishes Team to Address Workplace Concerns

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Home State Ceremony Celebrates Minnesota's Latest Winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Content

Anne Shea, External Affairs

Kids Learn Sea Lampreys Suck"

john heinrich, Marquette Biological Station

Horicon Refuge American White Pelican Colony Growing

Diane Penttila, Horicon NWR

First Successful Eagle Fledgeling at DeSoto Refuge

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Holds Migratory Bird Festival

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Holds May Day Bird Count on International Migratory Bird Day

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery Releases Lake Trout Into Lake Michigan

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Safe Travel For Lake Trout Distribution Vehicles

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Muscatatuck Refuge Hosts Conservation Field Days

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

DeSoto Refuge Commemorates Lewis and Clark

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

Lake Trout Released in Lake Huron by Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Ashland Fisheries Resource Office Challenge Cost-Share Program

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

New Missouri River Trawl Research Vessel Completes First Voyage

Joanne Grady, Columbia FRO

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Featured in Otter Tail Power Newsletter

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

More Than 100 Canada Geese Banded at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge

Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR

Two Rivers Refuge Begins Initial Swan Lake Drawdown

Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR

Mussel and Fishery Surveys on the Sherburne Refuge

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Meadows WPA/Manston Slough WMA Hydrology Researched for Possible Restoration

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Share Successes With North American Prairie Conference

Michael Engel, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

No New Sightings of Ruffe Reported in Lake Superior During Spring 2002

Gary Czipynski, Ashland FRO

Ashland FRO Expands Private Lands Habitat Restoration Coverage

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Cub Scouts Work Toward Earning Conservation Badge

Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

Service and Bay Mills Indian Community Conduct Lake Whitefish Survey in Northern Lake Huron

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

Shiawassee Refuge Hosts Annual Summer Discovery Camp

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Lake Trout Broodstock Retired To Bluer Waters

Donald Wiley, Pendills Creek NFH

Rice Lake Refuge Site of Search and Rescue Effort

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Region 3 Visitor Services Workshop Held at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

Information from the Accomplishment Reporting System for July 31 - August 31, 2002

Volume 4, No. 12.
August 2002

Nation's Smallest Refuge Provides Habitat for Common Terns

Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge is comprised of two 0.5 acre islands in Lake Mille Lacs (Mille Lacs County, Minn.) Spirit Island was set aside by Executive Order 2199 on May 14, 1915 and Hennepin Island was added on October 13, 1920. The two islands were designated as a "preserve and breeding ground for native birds."

Mille Lacs Refuge is not only the smallest refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System, it is also the site of one of only four common tern nesting colonies in Minnesota. The common tern is currently listed as a threatened species in Minnesota; they are not listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act, but are considered a species of management concern.

The two major threats to terns on Hennepin Island are competition for nesting sites with ring-billed gulls and weather. To help alleviate the gull threat, a gull-deterrent string-grid system was incorporated on the island in 1993. This year, 56 percent of the tern nests initiated on the island were located under the grid, an additional 38 percent were located on a low gravel "spit" of the island.

There were no successful gull nests on the island and a peak count of 181 common tern nests were counted this year. The record for tern nests was set in 2000 when the peak was 212.

Weather did have a negative effect on nests this year. Heavy rains, strong winds and a lack of protection around the island resulted in all of the nests initiated on the "spit" to be destroyed. *Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR*



- USFWS photo by Mary Stefanski

Rice Lake NWR STEP Student Cari Kramer holds a common tern that successfully hatched on Mille Lacs NWR. Mille Lacs NWR is the smallest refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

American Bitterns Tracked With Satellite Technology - 2001 to 2002 Update

During 2001 and 2002 eight adult American bitterns were captured and tagged with satellite collars in the hopes of learning more about their migration routes. Among the eight birds captured, one was a bird that had been tracked for more than four years, two were captured on their wintering grounds (a first), one bird migrated to the Texas coast (another first) and one bird migrated south in mid-August.

The history of some of these birds follows:

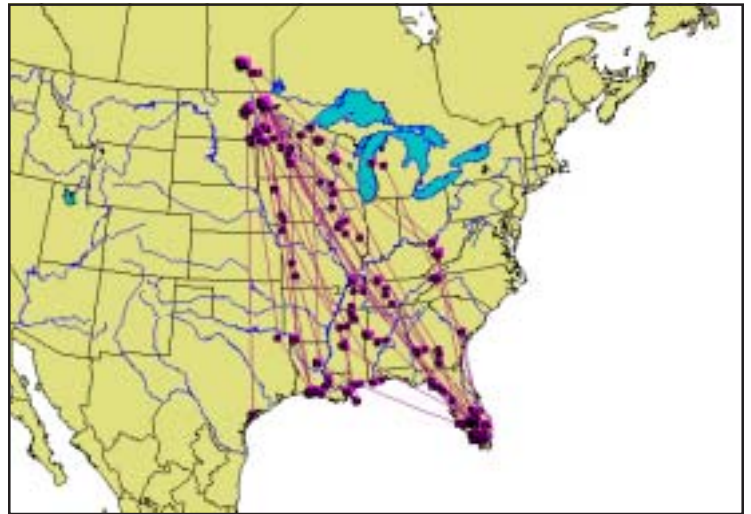
Bird #01939: Originally captured in 1998 in Pool 8, Agassiz NWR. Spent the winter of 1998-99 south of Lafayette, La. Returned to Pool 8 in spring 1999. Captured in Pool 8 in spring 2000, spent the winter of 2000-01 in the same vicinity in Lafayette, La. Returned to Agassiz in spring 2001; captured July 20, 2001 in Madsen Pool. Our luck and his ran out in the fall. He initiated migration and went as far as southeastern

North Dakota and was apparently killed by a predator north of Tewaukon NWR. The radio tag was recovered on Feb. 23, 2002. We learned a great deal from this bird. It was more than four years old and showed some breeding and wintering ground fidelity.

Bird#01936:

Captured in Wilken County, Minn., June 25, 2001, stayed in the area until September, then moved south to Big Stone NWR area. In early October migrated to southern Florida. As with other American bitterns that have gone to Florida he was south of Lake Okeechobee. Initiated his return trip in March moving to the Tallahassee, Fl., area and then to Mississippi in April. During late April he moved to the Backus, Minn., area. This prairie bird decided to check out the forest. He was in wetlands in the Bull Moose Impoundment area; however, in early June he returned to the prairie near Elbow Lake. A capture attempt on the Spink WPA on July 18, 2002 was not successful.

Bird# 29645: Captured in Grand Forks County, N.D., at Bry WMA on June 26, 2001. Stayed in the area until mid October. Migrated to the east coast of Texas north of Corpus Christi. The transmitter was not heard from after mid-December indicating possible predation. This was the first bird tagged that went to a wintering area west of Louisiana. Since it was captured in North Dakota it raises the possibility that birds west of the Red River may



- USFWS graphic

Spring and fall migration patterns for satellite-tracked bitterns (1998 - 2001). Fifteen birds have been tracked since the project began in 1998.

migrate to Texas like sand hill cranes from this area.

Bird# 29647: John Toepfer captured this bird February 2002 in the Florida Everglades with the aid of netgun and airboat. The bittern remained in the Everglades until late April 2002 and then moved to southern Georgia. During May he moved to north of Lake Ontario, southwest of Ottawa, Canada. The activity counter indicates that this bird is dead at this location.

Three birds were captured in the spring of 2002 in the Jamestown-Bismarck area of North Dakota to test the hypothesis that these birds will go to Texas for the winter and to look at post breeding movements in prairie pothole bitterns. A Bismarck bird moved to the St. Louis, Mo., area in mid August and arrived in Florida by the 25th! This is the earliest migration recorded from satellite collared birds, also disproved that all North Dakota birds will go to Texas. We will have to wait and see what the other North Dakota birds do. *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*



- USFWS photo

The American bittern is a secretive bird that prefers wetlands with tall emergent vegetation and adjacent grasslands.

Grand Portage Creek Fish Passage Now Operational

For the first time in more than 50 years, anadromous coaster brook trout and steelhead from Lake Superior have access to more than three miles of prime spawning and nursery habitat in Grand Portage Creek at the Grand Portage Reservation.

This project will significantly increase the production of coaster brook trout and steelhead in Grand Portage Creek and improve quality and productivity of the recreational fisheries in the stream and in Lake Superior. The creek is the only Minnesota Lake Superior tributary stream not blocked by a waterfall near Lake Superior and its restoration is particularly important for the regional fishery.

On-site construction work has been completed and water is now flowing through a step pool/fish ladder system that allows fish to pass under Minnesota State Highway 61. Fish passage at the site has been effectively blocked since construction of a large, concrete box



- USFWS photo by Lee Newman

This newly completed fish passage project allows fish to move freely up the Grand Portage Creek in northeastern Minnesota for the first time in more than 50 years.

culvert in 1950. Tribal authorities are elated that fish access to the stream has been restored and that it will contribute significantly to production of coaster brook trout and steelhead, both in the stream and in Lake Superior.

This project was the result of a multi-year partnership between the Grand Portage Natural Resources Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. *Lee Newman, Ashland FRO*

Chance to View Endangered Bird Attracts Bird Watchers From Across the Country and World



- Photo courtesy of Larry Lyons

A chance to see a Kirtland's warbler in the wild drew more than 750 people from 40 states and seven foreign countries to northern Michigan.

For many, the opportunity to see an endangered animal in its natural environment is a rare and celebrated event. That is why hundreds of people travel to the northern lower peninsula of Michigan every year for a chance to see one of the nation's most endangered songbirds, the Kirtland's warbler. In order to minimize habitat disturbance and enhance viewing opportunities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's East Lansing Field Office offers guided tours to selected Kirtland's warbler breeding areas twice daily between May 15 and July 4. The Michigan Audubon Society provides financial assistance for the tours.

In 2002, 777 people from 40 states,

the District of Columbia, and seven foreign countries participated in a Service's Kirtland's warbler tour.

A Kirtland's warbler was successfully observed on 92 of 95 tours for a 97 percent success rate. Results of a short questionnaire showed that over 30 percent of participants had previously gone on a Kirtland's warbler tour and 86 percent of tour participants were visiting the Grayling area primarily to view a Kirtland's warbler.

The U.S. Forest Service also conducts similar tours out of the Mio Ranger District in Mio, Mich. A total of 548 people representing 33 states and five countries participated in those tours. *Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO*

Tumbling Creek Cavesnail Listed as Endangered

The Tumbling Creek cavesnail, found only in one southwestern Missouri county, was added to the Federal list of threatened and endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service's action, designating the species as endangered, extends the formal protection of the Endangered Species Act to the cavesnail.

The cavesnail was listed under the emergency provisions of the Act in December 2001 after biologists noted a sharp drop in the cavesnail population. The emergency listing remained in effect for 240 days while the Service reviewed public comments and made a final decision about listing the cavesnail. The final rule formally listing the species as endangered appeared in the August 14 Federal Register.

"The plight of the Tumbling Creek cavesnail is, unfortunately, typical of many cave species," said William Hartwig, regional director for the Service's Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region. "They are

seldom seen and often forgotten. But they can be barometers of the health of our natural systems, especially when we understand their dependence on clean water, something that is vital to all life."

Tumbling Creek cavesnails live only in an underground stream that flows through Tumbling Creek Cave in southwestern Missouri's Taney County. These cavesnails measure

about one tenth of an inch in length, with a white body and pale yellow shell. The species lives beneath rocks in portions of the stream where there is usually little or no silt, and feeds on microscopic organisms in the creek.

The Tumbling Creek cavesnail's population has been monitored for the last six years to get a clear picture of the species' population trends. Surveys conducted over the past one and one-half years have found no snails in the survey area, although a few individuals were discovered upstream from the survey site.

Biologists believe the cavesnail's drastic downturn in population may be due to deteriorating water quality

in Tumbling Creek. Water that feeds into Tumbling Creek can be affected by erosion and other activities that occur on the land above -- especially those that increase silt and sediments in the creek, such as removal of streamside vegetation and overgrazing by livestock. Other threats include pollution from

accidental chemical spills or dumping trash into sinkholes that are directly connected to underground waterways.

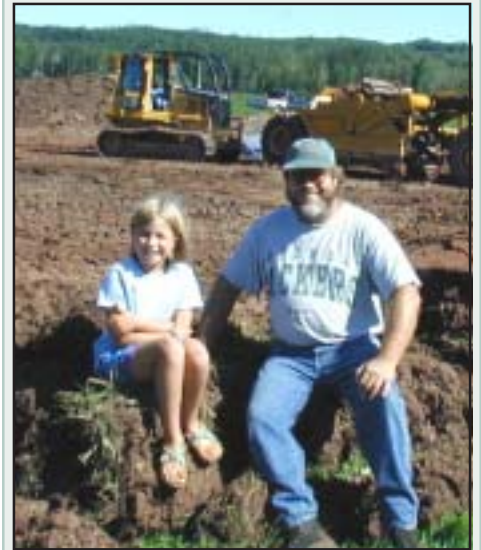
The Service will now focus on protecting the snail and its habitat, while working with partners in other state, federal, and local agencies, universities, and other organizations to develop a recovery strategy. *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*



- Photo courtesy of David Ashley

The Tumbling Creek cavesnail is only found in an underground stream in southwestern Missouri.

Partners Project Restores Four Wetlands



- USFWS photo

Tom and daughter Kayla Fratt are avid wildlife enthusiasts and were happy to work with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to restore drained wetlands on their property.

Construction has finished on the Fratt Wetland Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project. The project restored four wetland sites and a total of two wetland acres.

The project took place on previously drained wetland sites that were converted to agricultural production. The newly restored wetlands will also enhance wildlife habitat on the adjacent uplands. Shorebirds and other waterfowl utilize the adjacent farm ground and wetland areas during the spring and fall migrations. The landowners are avid wildlife enthusiasts, and thanks to recent thunderstorms, have already observed shorebirds, bluewing teal and mallards utilizing the project area.

A wetland habitat development agreement was signed protecting a total of 10 acres of wildlife habitat within and around the wetlands for at least 10 years. In addition to the wetland acres, eight acres of upland nesting wildlife habitat is included in the agreement. *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

Union Slough Hosts Wood Duck Banding and Shorebird Field Trip



- USFWS photo

Visitors to Union Slough NWR had the chance to learn about shorebirds and view wood ducks up-close.

The public was invited to participate in two programs, wood duck banding and a shorebird field trip, and breakfast at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, on August 3. Both events took place on areas of the refuge normally closed to the general public.

Wood duck banding began at 7:30 a.m. Wood ducks were

removed from live traps, banded with a leg band and released. Participants had the opportunity to handle live wood ducks and learn about waterfowl biology and the importance of banding studies.

Breakfast was then held at the refuge headquarters from 9 to 10 a.m., compliments of Friends of Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

There was also a short presentation on shorebird identification, habitat needs and migratory patterns. A field trip to view visiting shorebirds followed. Species observed included least sandpiper, pectoral sandpiper, spotted sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, lesser yellowlegs, short-billed dowitcher, and killdeer. *Michelle McDowell, Union Slough NWR*

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Continues to Restore Native Mussel Populations

The Genoa National Fish Hatchery continues to work with local, state and federal partners to help improve populations of native mussels.

Recently, hatchery staff worked in partnership with Minnesota biologists to complete initial work on a

cooperative restoration project for the black sandshell mussel (*Ligimaria recta*) in the upper Mississippi River. This project, primarily funded through a state grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is part of an overall effort to boost mussel populations in areas of the upper Mississippi River affected by invasive species and habitat changes.

The hatchery's contribution to the project involved supplying equipment, larval black sandshell mussels and technical assistance. Host fish were infested with larval mussels from stocks being held on the hatchery and later placed in holding cages constructed by hatchery personnel at selected sites in the upper Mississippi River. Hatchery personnel monitored transformation rates on control hosts held in the hatchery to estimate the number of juvenile mussels produced in the project.

The hatchery also recently sent five personnel and one volunteer to

assist the Higgins' eye Pearlymussel Coordination Team complete population surveys at two known mussel beds in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Higgins' eye pearlymussels were located, counted and cleaned of any attached zebra mussels; then marked and returned to a central location. This will allow biologists to monitor survival and use the mussels for broodstock in future propagation efforts. Service and state biologist hope to utilize mussels collected in this operation as soon as the fall of 2002 for restoration efforts in Iowa.

In addition to the hundreds of Higgins' eye mussels located, several other species of mussels were found and cleaned of zebra mussels at the Illinois site on the Mississippi River.

This effort is part of a multi-agency recovery effort involving four state natural resource agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Doug Aloisi and Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH*



- USFWS photo

Service biologists harvest glochidia from mussels as part of a project to increase populations.

Team Effort Continues a 22 Year Wildcelery Survey on the Upper Mississippi

Volunteers and cooperators joined together once again to help biologists on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge complete the annual Lake Onalaska wildcelery survey.

This survey provides invaluable canvasback habitat trend information on wildcelery, a critical food source for migrating canvasback ducks, and other waterfowl. Volunteers and personnel from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all convened on the river for a day of diving and measur-

ing wildcelery plant densities.

During the early 1980s, lakeside Onalaska residents considered the robust wildcelery population a nuisance that hampered boating and recreational activities. However, following a severe drought

in 1988, wildcelery population densities steadily dropped from an average high of 174 plants per square meter down to six plants in 1991. These conditions persisted through 1996 with plant densities never exceeding 10 plants per square meter. Conditions gradually began to improve and this



- USFWS photo

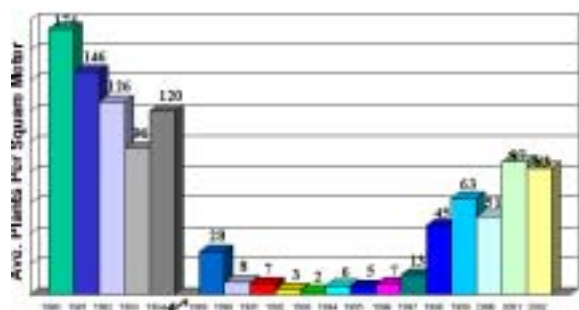
Volunteer Andrea Stupi and STEP Student Matt Paulson count wild celery plants on Lake Onalaska of the Upper Mississippi River NWFR.

August divers measured 81 plants per square meter.

The exact causes for the fluctuation in population densities is unknown, but for now canvasback ducks and other waterfowl will find an abundance of wildcelery on the upper Mississippi River during their migration south. *Lara Hill, Upper Mississippi NWFR - LaCrosse*

Wildcelery in Lake Onalaska, 1980-2002

Data collected along 12 transects which were heavily populated with wildcelery when the transects were established in 1980.



Kids Improve Their Casting Skills in Downtown Saginaw, Michigan



Kids had a special night all to themselves at "Friday Night Live - Kids' Night Out" in downtown Saginaw, Mich., on August 9. "Friday Night Live" is a free six-week program featuring different musical entertainment, kids activities and food vendors, sponsored by many area businesses and organizations. The Saginaw News was the main sponsor of this year's event.

Three staff and one volunteer from the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge hosted a booth where kids could practice casting a fishing pole on a course that contained hula hoops and frisbees. If the kids landed their plastic plug inside any of these, they won their choice of a prize including fishing line, a frisbee or a bubble pen.

Several thousand people attended the event and 175 children tried casting, some for the very first time. Each child received a Michigan Fishing Fun booklet and a fish tattoo just for trying. *Becky Goche, Saginaw NWR*

Shiawassee NWR Volunteer Dale Adams shows a young boy how to reel in his line after casting a practice plug on a course of hula hoops and frisbees in an attempt to win a prize. One hundred seventy-five children practiced casting, some for the very first time.

Endangered Species Discovered at National Park in Ohio

The National Park Service and the Cleveland Metroparks are conducting a two-year study to inventory bats within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Cleveland Metroparks in northeast Ohio. So far, one male adult Indiana bat, a Federally-listed endangered species, has been netted within the Brecksville Reservation. This is the first record of the species within Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the second recorded for Cleveland Metroparks.

The primary objective of the two-year study is to document the occurrence and distribution of Indiana bats within the national park and several park reservations of Cleveland Metroparks. Female Indiana bats, if captured, will be outfitted with radio transmitters and released, allowing park staff to locate summer roosting sites. The Service's Reynoldsburg Ohio Ecological Services Field Office has provided the radio transmitters for this study.

This cooperative effort of the National Park Service, Cleveland Metroparks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing important information that will facilitate

effective protection and management for bats in northeast Ohio. Other species of bats, including the big brown bat, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, red bat, hoary bat and eastern pipistrelle have also been captured and released during this first year of study.

In July, Service biologists Angela Boyer and Megan Seymour from the Reynoldsburg Ohio Field Office assisted the park staff with their mist-netting efforts. The Service biologists also met with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park staff to discuss methods for protecting Indiana bats and their habitat on the park property. *Angela Boyer, Reynoldsburg FO*



- USFWS photo by Andy King

An endangered Indiana bat was discovered at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This is the first record of the bat being found in the park.



- USFWS photos by Angela Boyer

In addition to the Indiana bat, Service biologist from the Reynoldsburg Field Office assisted park staff in capturing other bat species, such as the little brown bat (left) and hoary bat (right).

Volunteers Collect Seeds for Restoration at Whittlesey Creek Refuge



- USFWS photo

Volunteers collected seeds that will be used to restore native marsh habitat.

The Chequamegon Chapter of the Audubon Society sponsored a volunteer work day at Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge on August 3, 2002. Seven volunteers spent the morning collecting native sedge and rush seeds from selected locations on the refuge. Pam Dryer, refuge manager, directed the volunteers to locations that had good sedge and rush plant populations that were ripe for seed collection.

Approximately one bushel of seeds were collected by the volunteers. These seeds will be dried, processed and planted in newly restored wetland

sites on the refuge and lands of the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center this fall and next summer.

Experimental sedge meadow restoration has been done on the refuge over the past couple years. The wet meadow zones of restored shallow marshes are planted to native sedge and rush seeds collected in the area before reed canary grass, an aggressive, introduced species, becomes dominant. Students from nearby Northland College have provided significant help with these restoration efforts. *Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR*

Ashland Fisheries Office Assists Chippewa Band With Zebra Mussel Surveys

During the week of August 5, the Ashland Fisheries Resources Office assisted the Sokaogon Chippewa Community in determining the distribution and density of zebra mussels near its reservation boundaries. Fisheries biologist and Region 3 diver Glenn Miller, along with Mike Preul, aquatic biologist for the Mole Lake Band, surveyed three lakes that are utilized by the tribe for tribal subsistence harvest in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin.

Lakes surveyed were Pelican Lake in Oneida County, and Lake Lucerne and Lake Metonga in Forest County. Pelican Lake and Lake Lucerne had no zebra mussels found during the surveys. Areas around the boat landings and rock bars where fishermen are known to fish were surveyed, with each area receiving approximately 20 minutes per diver spent in these areas. A total of three areas for Lake Lucerne and four areas for Pelican Lake were surveyed.

Zebra mussels were reported in Lake Metonga during the summer of 2001. Further investigations during 2001 found several recruitment classes in the northern part of the lake by a public boat landing. During the fall of 2001 and winter of 2002, Mike Preul, along with assistance

from the Ashland FRO, put together a long term monitoring program for Lake Metonga. The program includes SCUBA surveys and collections of zebra mussels, veliger samplers placed throughout the lake and outlet streams, veliger tows and fish sampling of all life stages.

This is the first year of the sampling program, and, unfortunately, it looks like the zebra mussels are rapidly increasing their numbers in Lake Metonga. All sizes, from 2 mm up to 20 mm were found during the SCUBA survey and over two-thirds of the veliger samplers showed settling of juvenile zebra mussels.

Lake Metonga is used heavily for recreation, both for fishing and boating in general. Because of the volume of boats using this lake, the



- USFWS photo

Mike Preul, aquatic biologist for the Mole Lake Band, inspects a veliger sampler from Lake Metonga in Forest County, Wis. The survey found that zebra mussels populations are rapidly increasing in the lake.

potential for further infestations into surrounding lakes is very high.

The Mole Lake Band, in conjunction with the lake association, is in the process of placing large signs at boat landings warning boaters of the zebra mussels in Lake Metonga. These signs will inform boaters of ways to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels into neighboring lakes. *Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO*

Service Partners with Ohio and Livestock Coalition to Protect Riparian Habitat



- Photo courtesy Alberta RHMP

Cattle can negatively impact habitat and water quality in riparian areas. By controlling access, managers can limit these impacts.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Soil and Water; Division of Natural Areas and Preserves; several Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and, the Ohio Livestock Coalition banded together to offer fencing to livestock producers that would exclude their animals from riparian areas in eight counties of Ohio.

The agreement, which was initiated and developed by the Service early in 2002, has resulted in overwhelming

interest from more than 70 landowners. Once completed, more than 60 miles of fencing will be utilized to protect nearly 500 acres of habitat.

The program requires landowners to maintain a minimum setback of 15 feet for at least 10 years. The majority of applicants have agreed to establish setbacks of 35 feet or greater. This program will benefit creeks, waterways and scenic rivers. *William Hegge, Reynoldsburg FO*

Mingo Refuge and Friends Reach into the Community with Oral History Project

The Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, along with the Mingo Swamp Friends, developed an oral history project for the refuge and local area. The project revolved around two major goals: 1) to establish multiple accounts of what the refuge habitat and natural resources were like approximately 60 years ago, in the 1940s, prior to establishment of the refuge; and, 2) to bridge a gap with older community members and generate improved community relations.

The project involved multiple steps and a steep learning curve. The Friends Group and the refuge discussed the purpose and possibilities of the project for many months before deciding to commit the necessary time and funds. It was decided that the project should peak at the local summer festival, Homecoming, when the little town of Puxico grows from 800 people to 5,000. Past residents are in town during Homecoming and the carnival atmosphere encourages story telling and sharing. With Homecoming as our goal, we arranged our plans backwards over the summer; we planted the seeds of ideas in May and spent Homecoming harvesting interviews.

Hard work and ingenuity lead to renting a building, posting displays,

contacting possible interviewees, printing historical pictures in local papers several weeks in advance, ordering cameras, writing press releases and conducting research all before the week of Homecoming.

During the week of Homecoming, Aug 12 - 17, the Mingo Oral History Project conducted 12 interviews, lasting one to two hours each. Volunteers and contracted employees interviewed people who shared stories and information about the refuge. Over 200 people stopped in the history headquarters to look at old photographs, ask questions and talk about the refuge.

Volunteers and interns from Southeast Missouri State University, in Cape Girardeau, assisted with the set-up and coordination of the Oral History Project throughout the



- USFWS photos

Historian Wil Shapton (left) interviews a brother and sister who grew up on what is now the Mingo NWR. By documenting these historical accounts, present and future generations will have a better understanding of the refuge's, and the community's, past.

summer. Intern Monica Bishop volunteered over 450 hours. Her participation was crucial to the success of the project. Monica made the initial contacts, wrote the press releases, submitted historic photos to the local paper, cataloged the historical pictures and filed land acquisition reports from the 1940s. Monica also researched and ordered archival supplies, camera equipment and recording equipment. Her final duty was to manage the cameras and recording equipment during the interview process during the week of Homecoming.

Special thanks are also in order to the Ozark Border Electric Cooperative for donating the electricity at the rental building, to John Dobrovolsky for giving guidance from the Regional Office, to Dr. Bonnie Stepenoff for encouraging students from Southeast Missouri State University to participate in the project, and to all those for willingly sitting in front of a camera and sharing their stories with us. *Molly Mehl, Mingo NWR*



A collection of historical photos was a big attraction at the event. Local residents were able to help staff identify some previously unknown individuals and possible time frames of photographs.

Frog Deformities Decrease by Nearly 10 Percent in Fergus Falls District Survey

Staff from the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District and Twin Cities Field Office conducted surveys for malformed frogs in two wetlands on the Julsrud Waterfowl Production Area in July 2002. All frogs were measured (snout to vent length) and examined; frog abnormalities were recorded and photographed.

Four frogs with gross abnormalities were anesthetized, mounted on plastic, preserved in ethyl alcohol and sent to the National Wildlife Health Center for radiographs.



- USFWS photo

Abnormalities, such as missing legs, were down by nearly 10 percent from last year.

Thirty-five frogs were sent live to the University of Wisconsin for necropsies to determine parasite loads.

On July 22, 2002, 229 northern leopard frogs were collected from the boundary wetland on Julsrud WPA. Thirteen (5.7 percent) frogs had abnormalities that included: extra digits, limb rotation and bone bridges on front limbs; partial or missing hind limbs; limb rotation and bone bridges on hind limbs; missing, fused, shortened or misplaced digits on hind limbs; and, a misplaced eye (out of the socket, below where the eye would normally be). The boundary wetland is a co-owned (part owned by the Service and part in private ownership) wetland on the edge of the WPA. Some agricultural land and a building site are adjacent to the wetland. This basin had an abnormality rate of nearly 15 percent in 2001.



- USFWS photo

Staff from the Fergus Falls WMD and Twin Cities Field Office surveyed frog populations as part of a Department of Interior study.

On July 23, 2002, 141 northern leopard frogs and two mink frogs were collected from the over-the-road wetland on Julsrud WPA. No abnormalities were found. The over-the-road wetland is surrounded by seeded native prairie and WPA land on all sides.

Funding for the malformed frog surveys comes from the Department of the Interior's Amphibian Initiative that is designed to examine amphibian declines and abnormalities. The surveys help determine the prevalence of frog abnormalities on Service lands. *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD*

Upper Mississippi River Refuge Teaches "Leaves No Trace" Recreation

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (MN, WI, IA, IL) conducted its third "Leave No Trace" Trainer Course in mid-August, bringing the total number of trainers on the refuge and in the area to 24.

Leave No Trace is a national education program designed to minimize impacts to cultural and natural resources that are directly related to recreational use. With 3.5 million visitors reported annually,

the refuge has its share of these types of impacts. Wildlife disturbance, trash, human waste, invasive species and trampled and destroyed vegetation are just some of the impacts found.

Partnering with Wenonah Canoe as a course sponsor, participants spent two days in the field, paddling to and camping on an island in Pool 5 of the Mississippi River. While on the island, participants learned and practiced minimum impact tech-

niques that they will later share with the public.

Participants in this year's course included staff from Upper Mississippi River and Trempealeau refuges, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, as well as boy scout leaders from both the Rochester and Twin Cities area. *Joya Szalwinski, Upper Miss NWFR - HQ*

Red Lake Walleye Continue to Improve

In cooperation with the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Ashland Fisheries Resources Office continued bottom trawling for the fifth year to assess the abundance of juvenile walleye and forage fish in Minnesota's Upper and Lower Red Lakes. Although complete analysis of the data is not finished, preliminary data indicates the walleye fishery is continuing to improve.

In 2000, trawling was expanded to include the eastern half of the Upper Red Lake under the jurisdiction of the DNR. In accordance with the Red Lake Walleye Restoration Plan, this survey is used by the tribe and DNR to determine the status of walleye recruitment, the success of stocking efforts in the wake of a declining walleye fishery and the status of forage fish stocks for supporting walleyes. A total of 81 million walleye fry were stocked in 1999 and 2001 combined.



- USFWS photo
Adult walleye were captured during the August survey of Red Lake, indicating increased abundance of larger fish.

A total of 60 tows of five-minute duration were completed during the week of August 12. An analysis of the data has not been completed, but preliminary observation indicated an average of 1.5 to 2.0 juvenile walleye per tow, similar to 2001.

However, unlike 2001 several adult walleyes were captured this year. Adult walleyes are usually successful in evading the bottom trawl unless they are abundant. The fact that several adult as well as age two specimens were captured is an indicator that walleye abundance has improved. It was assumed that these specimens were likely representative of the 1999 and 2001 stockings, and all were captured in the same tow. The most common species captured were yellow perch, freshwater drum, spottail shiner, black crappie and walleye. Year class strength for yellow perch and freshwater drum is strong, while year class strength for spottail shiner and black crappie could be described as fair.

These annual bottom trawling assessments are being used in conjunction with other sampling techniques to monitor the effectiveness of the Red Lake Walleye Restoration Plan consisting of restocking and more restrictive catch regulations. *Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO*

Mitigation Banks Performing Well in the Chicago Region



- USFWS photo by Jeffrey Mengler

This wetland restoration project at Otter Creek is an example of a successful wetland mitigation banking site.

The Mitigation Banking Review Team of the Chicago District recently completed field inspections of seven wetland mitigation banks in the Chicago region. The inspections revealed that where the bankers put in the necessary effort to restore fully functioning wetlands, success is being achieved. Five of these banks have all or a major portion of their wetland restoration at full-performance as determined through review of their monitoring data and the on-site inspections.

These restorations bring wetlands back to areas that were drained farm fields or drained fallow ground and provide wildlife habitat and native plant diversity to compensate for small individual impacts to lower quality wetlands authorized under the Clean Water Act within the Chicago District.

Most of these areas have been restored to wetlands from row-cropped farm fields or areas previously dominated entirely by aggressive weedy species. In many places, the vegetation now resembles that of a natural wetland.

These determinations resulted in release of additional mitigation credits by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for most sites. *Jeffrey Mengler, Chicago FO*

Special Assistant to the Director Tours Region 3 Stations

Special Assistant to the Director Clint Riley spent several days touring Region 3 to gain a better understanding of issues facing the region. Riley spent August 2 at the Regional Office and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge listening to presentations covering activities across the region. Riley then boarded the Region 3 airplane and spent the next three days visiting field stations in the Great Lakes, upper Mississippi River and tallgrass prairie ecosystems of the region.

His first field location was the Great Lakes area including the Iron River National Fish Hatchery and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

On August 4, Riley was given a grand welcome to the Upper Mississippi River. An aerial view of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, compliments of former Regional Pilot Bob Foster, was included in the tour. The tour was organized by Pam Thiel, project leader at the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and included opportunities for the Special Assistant to gain an overview of

activities conducted by the Service and other partners to protect important natural resources on the upper Mississippi River. During the morning Mr. Riley met with personnel from the LaCrosse Fish Health Lab, National Wetlands Inventory, Law Enforcement and U.S. Geological Survey. During the afternoon, he toured habitat management activities on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and habitat restoration projects constructed under the Environmental Management Program, as well as observing the ecological benefits of the Pool 8 drawdown and mussel recovery efforts at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery.



- USFWS photo

Special Assistant Clint Riley (center) took a tour of Genoa National Fish Hatchery's "Clam Palace" during his visit to the region. Twin Cities Field Office Biologist Gary Wege and LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office Project Leader Pam Thiel are pictured with Riley.

Riley flew to the tallgrass prairie area of northwestern Minnesota and spent a day touring waterfowl production areas in the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District. Included in the tour was a visit to the HAPET office and a hands-on demonstration of waterfowl banding techniques. *Teresa Woods, Regional Office; Dan Stinnett, Twin Cities FO and Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*

On August 5,



- USFWS photos

(Above) Riley (right) talks with Wege and McGregor District Manager John Lindell (center) about issues affecting the upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

(Right) Riley had the opportunity to band ducks while visiting the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District.



Horicon Refuge Hosts Successful Volunteer Training Week

With the busy fall tourist and school field trip season just around the corner, Horicon National Wildlife Refuge hosted a volunteer training week, August 26-29. Each half-day of training centered on a different volunteer job: school field trip assistants, rolling readers, visitor center staff and rangers. More than 25 volunteers attended in total, including seven brand new volunteers.

The newest fall training session, for school field trip assistants, was the best attended and will provide extra support for the refuge ranger who typically handles one to three groups per week day in the fall. These volunteers will be eased into the job by first observing programs, then assisting and ultimately leading. Their support will be especially critical for two newly planned school field trips scheduled to take place during National Wildlife Refuge Week in October.

For the fifth year, volunteer rolling readers will roll into school classrooms in communities around the refuge to read nature stories to children and conduct simple related activities. This position is offered in partnership with Rolling Readers USA, a private, non-profit children's literacy organization. Rolling readers provide essential outreach into schools and excellent public relations throughout the school year.



- USFWS photo by Molly Stoddard

Volunteer rolling readers from Horicon NWR read nature stories to children and conduct simple, hands-on activities at schools and community centers.

Visitor center volunteers greet the public at the visitor center seven days per week, September through early November. Because of their tireless dedication, the refuge doors stay open daily to serve up to 1,100 visitors per day on peak weekends.

Volunteer rangers hike refuge trails or station themselves at viewing areas, parking lots or trail heads to welcome the public. Like all visitor services volunteers, they are uniformed and identifiable as someone who can help. They distribute maps and brochures, answer questions and provide extra visibility

on the refuge. Since only about 17,000 of the refuge's estimated 500,000 visitors drive to the visitor center, the presence of volunteer rangers provides needed outreach services to those who otherwise most likely would not have any interaction with refuge staff.

These volunteer positions are essential to making Horicon's fall tourist and school season successful and fun. Besides that, their involvement builds community support of the refuge for which we are grateful. *Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR*

Partnership Helps Lake Sturgeon Recovery on Wisconsin Tribal Lands

Four thousand juvenile lake sturgeon were propagated and stocked as part of an ongoing restoration program involving the LaCrosse Fishery Resource Office, Genoa National Fish Hatchery and the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin.

Historically, lake sturgeon abounded on the reservation until hydroelectric projects cut fish off from their traditional spawning

grounds. To help remediate the loss, sturgeon are captured in the spring, spawned and then released back into the Wolf River. The eggs are hatched and reared to six inches at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery and released in the fall.

Many hatchery produced sturgeon are now found in these stocked waters, indicating good post stocking success. *Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH*



- USFWS photo

Four thousand lake sturgeon were stocked in the Wolf River this fall. The LaCrosse FRO monitors sturgeon populations to determine success and future stocking requirements.

Region 3 Promotes Centennial and Jr. Duck Stamp at National Conference

More than 800 environmental educators as well as representatives from various state, federal and nonprofit environmental agencies and organizations participated in the National American Association for Environmental Education Conference held in Boston this August.

Attendees participated in a multitude of workshops, sessions, field trips, networking groups and focus groups, all of which addressed the latest development, direction, trends and issues in environmental education. Region 3 was proactive in recommending, organizing and providing outreach for the Federal Junior Duck Program and the Refuge System Centennial at this conference.

In conjunction with the National Conservation and Training Center, which was one of the conference sponsors, Region 3 representatives staffed a double booth in the exhibit hall and experienced tremendous results in their Centennial and environmental education outreach efforts.

Environmental educators as well as various representative from environmental agencies were exceptionally eager to talk with U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel at the booth about Service resources available to enhance their environmental education programs. On an average, each visitor to the booth spent 20-30 minutes.

This was the first time that many of the educators heard of the Junior Duck Stamp Program and were very excited to learn that their students could "Learn Art through Conservation."

While many of the conference participants were aware of the



- USFWS photo

Hundreds of environmental educators learned about the Junior Duck Stamp Program and the Refuge System Centennial during the meeting.

upcoming Refuge Centennial in 2003, they were pleased to be reminded of it.

Additional information about other Service programs and where participants could get more information regarding the Service was also distributed. *Anne Shea, External Affairs*

Lake Trout Broodstock Retired to Bluer Pastures

So, where do old broodstock lake trout go to die? Well, they get stocked in Johnson Lake near Gwinn in the central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Biologists Crystal LeGault and Tracy Walters loaded the retiring broodstock from Hiawatha Forest National Fish Hatchery onto a fish truck for their three-hour trip to Johnson Lake. All broods are certified pathogen free and are being released after many years of contributing eggs and milt towards the restoration of lake trout populations in the Great Lakes.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Gladstone Office worked closely with the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the right lake in which to stock the retiring lake trout. A deep enough lake with an optimal environment must be considered carefully because of the size of the fish.

Sixty-seven Superior

Marquette domestic lake trout were retired – 42 males from the 1988-year class weighing about 12.15 lbs each; and 25 females from the 1987-year class weighing about 13.68 lbs each. *Donald Wiley, Pendills Creek NWR*



- USFWS photo

These lake trout have done their part to help restore the species to the Great Lakes. Now they are spending their retirement years in a deep lake in Michigan's upper peninsula.

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between July 31 and August 31, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

Rice Lake Refuge Participates in Wild Rice Days

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

August 2002 Diversity Report

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/
PWLC*

Service Partners with Ohio and Livestock Coalition to Protect Riparian Habitat

william hegge, Reynoldsburg FO

Kirtland's Warbler Tours Continue to Attract Wildlife Lovers

Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO

Chicago Field Office Assists State of Illinois with Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

cyndi duda, Chicago FO

Chicago Field Office Provides Guest Speakers for 14 Metro Area Schools

cyndi duda, Chicago FO

Fratt Wetland Project Restores Four Wetlands

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Chicago Field Office Assists Students with Environmental Field Studies

cyndi duda, Chicago FO

Chicago Field Office Provides Teacher Training Regarding Wetlands, Watersheds and Water Quality

cyndi duda, Chicago FO

Alpena FRO Participates in Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Scoping Meeting

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Horicon Refuge Hosts Successful Volunteer Training Week

Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

Ashland Fisheries Office Presents Award To Tribal Cooperator

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Muscatatuck Refuge Holds Butterfly Count

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Mississippi Headwaters and Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem Team Converges on Neal Smith Refuge

*Tim Yager, Mississippi Headwtrs
EcoTm*

Muscatatuck Refuge Holds Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Media Contact re: Dioxins in Tittabawasee and Saginaw Rivers

Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

Missouri Couple Sentenced For Brokering Illegal Sale of Federally-Endangered Tigers

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Secretive American Bitterns Tracked With Satellite Technology - 2001 to 2002 Update

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

Sea Lampreys a Fair Hit

*john heinrich, Marquette Biological
Statio*

Detroit Lakes WMD Hosts Annual Waterfowl Expo

Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

Detroit Lakes Wetland District Hosts 4th Annual Waterfowl Expo

Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD

Chicago Office Holds Calumet Area Bio-Blitz™

Michael Redmer, Chicago FO

Motorboat Operation Instructor Certification

Adam Kowalski, Alpena FRO

Fergus Falls Holds Public Meetings for CCP Comments

*Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/
PWLC*

Sampling of Fish Communities on Little Muddy Creek

susan wells, Ottawa NWR

DCR Staff Provides Overview of Civil Rights Review Process to Federal Aid Coordinators

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

DCR and Federal Aid Staff Conduct Civil Rights Compliance Review of the Wisconsin DNR

Peggy Nelson, ABA (DCR)

Muscatatuck Refuge Volunteer/ Interns Donate More Than 1,600 Hours of Summer Field Help

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

New Lotus Notes Project Tracking System Make Information Access Easier

*Rodney Hartleib, ABA
(Engineering)*

Grand Portage Creek Fish Passage Now Operational

Lee Newman, Ashland FRO

Environmental Educators Workshop Held at Minnesota Valley Refuge

Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

Times are a Changin' at the Becker County Fair

Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

Media Learns About Changes in Hunting Regs at Waterfowl Primer

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Service Biologist Attends North American Lake Trout Symposium

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

Implementation of 2000 Consent Decree

Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

Mingo Refuge and Mingo Swamp Friends Reach into the Community via an Oral History Project

Molly Mehl, Mingo NWR

Upper Mississippi River Refuge Teaches Leaves No Trace™

Joya Szalwinski, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

Horicon Refuge Hosts Successful and Safe Youth Conservation Corps Program

Diane Kitchen, Horicon NWR

Red Lake Walleye Fishery Continues to Improve

Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Watershed Protection Technical Assistance Round Robin Held by Service, Partners

Bob Kavetsky, East Lansing FO

Minnesota Waterfowl Association Woodie Camp Participants Enjoy Making Mallard Nest Cylinders

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Stream Restoration Techniques Course

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Wetland District Managers Descend on Detroit Lakes

Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

Media Outreach—Marketing Region 3 Initiatives and Accomplishments to Television

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Tumbling Creek Cavesnail Listed Under Endangered Species Act

Georgia Parham, External Affairs

Outreach - Listing for Tumbling Creek Cavesnail

Georgia Parham, External Affairs

Team Effort Continues a 22 Year Wildcelery Survey on the Upper Mississippi

Lara Hill, UMRNW&FR-LaCrosse

Muscatatuck Refuge and Ducks Unlimited Promote Refuge Centennial to 6,500 people

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

Volunteer Program Strong at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Hocking College Students Gain Valuable Experience

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Endangered Species Discovered at National Park in Ohio

Angela Boyer, Reynoldsburg FO

Florida Animal Park Owner Pleads Guilty to Illegally Selling Federally Protected Leopards

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Chicago Field Office Helps Nominate Candidates for City of Chicago's Official Fish

Michael Redmer, Chicago FO

Mississippi River Commission Tours Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Rydell Visitor Center Addition Dedication and Open House Well Attended

rick julian, Rydell NWR

Friends of Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District Take Flight

Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

Minnesota Celebrates Prairie Day

Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

Return to the Prairie Day At the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Aids Minnesota Mussel Recovery Project

Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH

Ashland Fisheries Office Assists Mole Lake Chippewa Band With Zebra Mussel Surveys

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Alpena and Ashland Fisheries Offices Assist Bay Mills Community with Lake Superior Whitefish Survey

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

Region 3 MOCC instructors attend advanced training for the Open Water Module.

Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Horicon Refuge Staff Attends Mentor Training Workshop

Diane Kitchen, Horicon NWR

Kids Practice Casting in Downtown Saginaw

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Congresswoman Betty McCollum Visits Minnesota Valley

Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

Service Proposes to Maintain Duck Hunting Opportunities With Added Restrictions For Some Species

Chuck Traxler, External Affairs

Pre-season Waterfowl Meeting Held for Minnesota Outdoor Writers

Steve Wilds, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Pilot Program for Budget Tracking System

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Worst to First: Region 3 Gets Federal Aid Accomplishments On The Street

Michael Vanderford, Federal Aid

Safety Office Initiates New Automated External Defibrillator Pilot Program

Patrick McDermott, ABA (Engineering)

La Crosse Fishery Offices Partner to Complete Wild Fish Health Survey

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

National American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Conference August 6-10, 2002

Anne Shea, External Affairs

Another Edition of the MTAN Goes to Print

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Girls Scouts Fun Fishing Day at Ottawa Refuge

susan wells, Ottawa NWR

Service Seeks Public Comment on Draft Recovery Plan for Great Lakes' Piping Plover

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Public Input Sought on Draft Recovery Plan for Illinois Cave Amphipod

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

300 Cub Scouts Get Wet in Stream Exploration Experience

Jeffrey Mengler, Chicago FO

Detroit Lakes Staff Work with Partners to Help Landowners and Habitat

Mark Chase, Detroit Lakes WMD

Mississippi Headwaters Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem Debut's "Partners" Web Page

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Special Assistant to Director Visits the Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Participates in Lake Sturgeon Recovery

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Parades Promote Service Fire Program and Centennial

Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

Volunteers Collect Seeds for Sedge Meadow Restoration at Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR

Wood Duck Banding and Shorebird Events at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge

Michelle McDowell, Union Slough NWR

Successful Fish Collection at Shacte Creek

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Rice Lake Refuge Participates in Aitkin County Fair

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Public Interest in Minnesota Valley Educational and Interpretive Programs Increasing

Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

Chicago Field Office Participates in Stewardship Days

cyndi duda, Chicago FO

First Large Scale Collection of Sturgeon From Green Bay Successful

Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO

Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee Visits Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge

Michelle McDowell, Union Slough NWR

Lake Superior Technical Committee Meeting

Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

Results from Green Bay Workshops Will Help Improve Yellow Perch Populations

Mark Holeý, Green Bay FRO

Minnow Effects Study Continues During 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Assists in Endangered Mussel Surveys

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Environmental Assessments Completed for Three Highway Projects

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Enhancements to Charge Card Program

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Chicago Field Office Coordinates Service's Sikes Act Review of Joliet Training Center Mgt. Plan

Michael Redmer, Chicago FO



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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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*Information from the Accomplishment
Reporting System for Sept. 1 - Sept. 30, 2002*

Inside This Issue

***Coaster Brook Trout
Sea Lamprey Control
MN Joint Venture Turns 15
Centennial Events
....and More***

Eurasian Ruffe Continue to Move in the Great Lakes

New Discovery in Lake Michigan, Range Expansion in Lake Superior

During a routine Eurasian ruffe surveillance survey in Lake Michigan waters off Escanaba, Mich., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists from the Ashland Fishery Resources Office captured and destroyed an adult Eurasian ruffe. This is the first confirmed finding of a ruffe in Lake Michigan. Two weeks later, on Sept. 4, biologists found another ruffe in Lake Superior's Keweenaw Waterway, 101 km farther east than the ruffe's last known location.

The Eurasian ruffe is an exotic invasive species first discovered in the Duluth, Minn., harbor and St. Louis River estuary of Lake Superior in 1986. Since then, ruffe numbers in the Duluth harbor have increased to become the most common species found while sampling with trawls. Their range has expanded into the Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario waters of western Lake Superior, and to one location in Michigan waters of Lake Huron. Control measures have slowed range expansion since 1995, but this recent appearance in Lake Michigan and expansion in Lake Superior indicates that ruffe are continuing to grow in the Great Lakes.

"Although the effects ruffe will have on native Great Lakes fish populations are difficult to predict," said Mark Dryer, project leader for the Ashland FRO, "strong evidence suggests they compete with native fish for food and space."

The ruffe is in the same family as native yellow perch, walleye and some darters. In the Duluth harbor where ruffe have become a dominant species, natives like yellow perch and some bait fish have declined. Unfortunately, unlike native perch species, ruffe have no known economic, recreational or environmental value



- USFWS photo by Gary Czypinski

Service biologists use trawls and other techniques to monitor the movement of ruffe in the Great Lakes. The partnership effort to control aquatic nuisance species includes private industry and many federal, state, tribal and Canadian governmental agencies.

in North America.

It is believed that the eastward movement of the ruffe found in Lake Superior is due to natural migration along the lake's southern shore.

Biologists are uncertain about how the fish moved into Lake Michigan. It is unlikely that the fish naturally migrated from another location since they were not previously found in Lake Michigan. More likely, the fish was transported in the ballast water of a commercial ship. Ballast water exchange is believed to be responsible for the initial movement of ruffe from their native habitat in Europe to the Duluth harbor.

Service Regional Director Bill Hartwig is less concerned about how the fish arrived in Lake Michigan than what needs to be done now. "It would be helpful to know how these fish got here so we can expand measures to stop future movement,"

said Hartwig. "But, the more immediate issue is what we do about the ruffe now that they are here. If they move into southern Lake Michigan, it is possible they could enter the Mississippi River ecosystem through the Chicago Canal system."

The Service is the lead agency for the Ruffe Control Program that was approved by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in 1995. The Ruffe Control Program is a joint federal-state-tribal-private-partnership that is responsible for monitoring and controlling ruffe populations. Since 1986, Service biologists have been tracking the spread of ruffe by surveying shipping ports, tributaries and coastal locations throughout the Great Lakes. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is also monitoring populations in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes.

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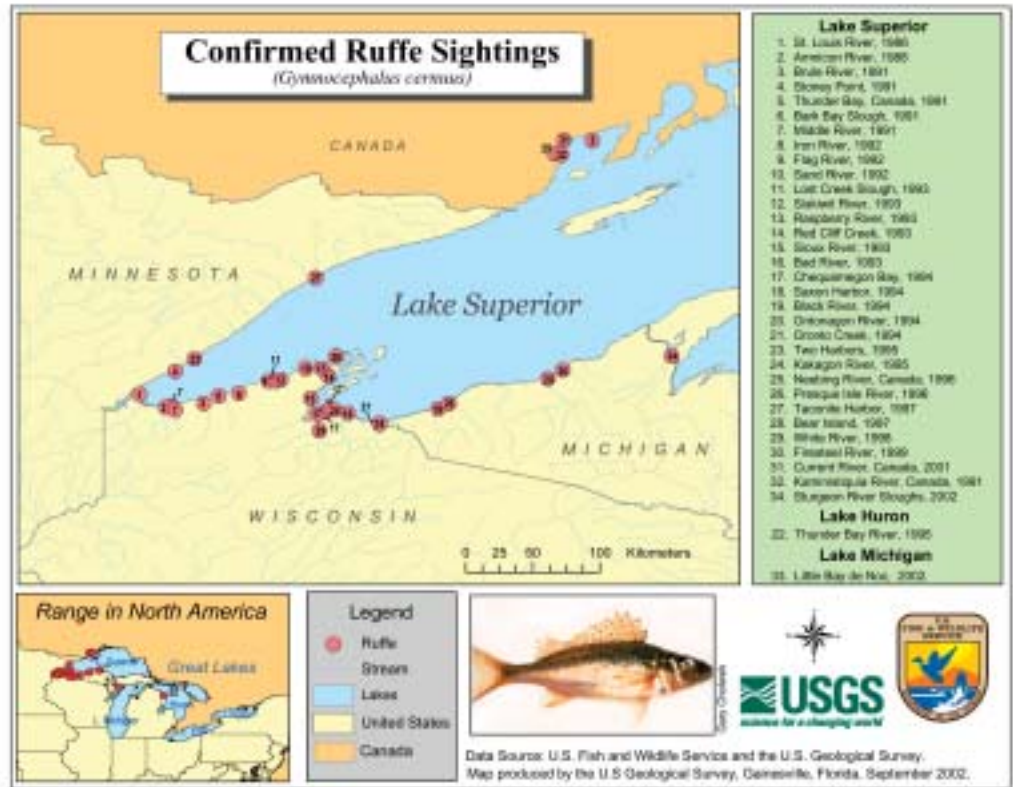
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Eurasian Ruffe Continue to Move in the Great Lakes

Service Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries Gerry Jackson has recommended an increase in the Service's ruffe monitoring and research activities.

"We will immediately begin discussing options with our partners to increase monitoring efforts in Lake Michigan to determine the size and range of this new ruffe population," Jackson said.

Currently, there are no practical methods available to eliminate ruffe populations in the Great Lakes. "Our best approach now is to identify new populations through surveillance so measures to control their spread can be focused," added Jackson. "We need to contain existing populations and at the same time increase our research efforts to develop safe and effective methods to control the spread and impact of this and other aquatic nuisance species." *Gary Czypinski and Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO*



- Graphic courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

DeSoto Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Rescues Stranded Boater

At midnight on Sept. 26, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Officer Rod Hansen received a phone call from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources reporting that an 84-year-old man was stranded on a sandbar of the Missouri River somewhere between DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges. Hansen's assistance was requested to search for and rescue the elderly male. The temperature was expected to drop into the low 40s overnight and the man reportedly did not have adequate clothing.

From the report, a man and his elderly father were fishing from a boat on the Missouri River when they experienced trouble and were

not able to get the motor working. They paddled until they reached a sandbar at the edge of the river, south of Wilson Island State Park, which adjoins DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The two built a fire on the sandbar and the son decided to walk up river to find help. Because they were expecting to be back by sundown, they did not have additional warm clothing with them.

At approximately 11:30 pm, the son reached Wilson Island State Park and made contact with Chris Anison, an Iowa DNR park ranger, who called Hansen for assistance.

At approximately 1:00 am, the man was located huddled over a campfire on the sandbar. He was unable to walk due to exposure to

the cold weather. Anison and Hansen assisted the man in getting into the boat. After everyone was aboard and secure, the fire was extinguished and a tow rope was hooked to the disabled boat, which was towed back to a boat ramp at Wilson Island State Park.

Upon arriving at the State Park at approximately 2:00 am, Anison and Hansen assisted the individual into a warm vehicle and trailered his boat.

Hansen recommended the son take his father to the nearby hospital in Missouri Valley, Iowa, for medical treatment. *Cindy Meyer, DeSoto NWR*

Federal Funds Awarded to 51 Fire Departments in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region

Rural fire departments that help protect federal lands in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region recently received federal funds to support their firefighting capabilities. The departments support national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The funds come through the Rural Fire Assistance Program, which provides more than \$1.2 million annually to enhance the capabilities of fire departments that help protect land managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"This program is designed to increase firefighter safety and firefighting capabilities of those small-town fire departments that help provide fire protection to our refuges and wetland management districts," said Bill Hartwig, Great Lakes-Big Rivers regional director. "Recent history has shown us the importance of safely controlling fires on federal lands. These volunteer fire departments and rural fire departments provide a valuable service. The funds provided by this program will help those small departments get the additional training and equipment they might need not only



- USFWS photo

The Erskine, Minn., Volunteer Fire Department received a grant for \$5,430 to purchase communication and safety equipment usable when conducting wildland fire suppression work. A presentation of the grant was made by Rydell Refuge Manager Rick Julian at the group's monthly training meeting. The Department will match the grant with 10 percent of their own money.

to help us, but their own communities as well."

The Rural Fire Assistance Program is a cost-share program. Fire departments contribute 10 percent, the federal contribution is 90 percent. To receive funds provided by the program, fire departments must have a fire agreement with a local refuge or wetland management district, or be part of a statewide agreement with the State Forester

who maintains cooperative agreements with rural and volunteer fire departments. Fire departments must also serve a community with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. Fire departments can use the funds to purchase equipment and supplies or conduct fire training. *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*

Grants Were Awarded To:

Wisconsin (13) Amount

Shelby Fire Dept. \$450
Stoddard-Bergen Vol. Fire Dept. \$4,700
Dakota Fire and Rescue \$4,475
Lincoln Fire Dept. \$1,145
Rollingstone Volunteer Fire Dept. \$3,772
Cutler Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,780
Tri-Community Fire Dept. \$2,500
Kenoskee Fire Dept. \$4,530
Brownsville Fire Dept. \$1,000
Necedah Volunteer Fire Dept. \$9,734
Oakfield Volunteer Fire Dept. \$9,476
Knowles Volunteer Fire Dept. \$6,500
Wapun Community Fire Dept. \$4,400

Indiana (6) Amount

Colombia Rural Fire Dept. \$3,358
Francisco Volunteer Fire Dept. \$2,500
South Patoka River Fire Dept. \$4,400
Jefferson TWP Rural Fire Dept. \$5,500
Lockhart TWP Rural Fire Dept. \$5,305
N. Patoka TWP Rural Fire Dept. \$1,922

Illinois (9) Amount

Makanda Township Fire. Dept. \$3,970
Alexandria Rural Fire Dept. \$2,100
Clarksville Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,000
Pleasant Hill Rural Fire Dept. \$4,000
Williamson County Rural Fire Dept. \$4,800
Lewiston Rural Fire Dept. \$5,000
Havana Rural Fire Dept. \$7,311
Dongola Auxiliary Fire Dept. \$4,000
Ridge Lake Rural Fire Dept. \$4,085

Missouri (7) Amount

Puxico Fire Dept. \$540
Butler County Rural Fire Dept. \$3,800
Wappapello Volunteer Fire Dept. \$5,500
Lowndes Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,801
Cooper County Rural Fire Dept. \$4,556
Howard City Rural Fire Dept. \$2,856
Holy County Rural Fire Dept. \$1,000

Ohio (1) Amount

Allen-Clay Rural Fire Dept. \$3,500

Iowa (1) Amount

Titonka Fire Dept. \$1,500

Michigan (1) Amount

Spaulding Volunteer Fire Dept. \$5,575

Minnesota (13) Amount

Twin Valley Rural Fire Dept. \$350
Mahnomah \$12,342
Audoban Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,730
Glenwood Fire Dept. \$6,609
Morris Fire Dept. \$10,000
Fergus Falls Fire Dept. \$10,964
Windom Volunteer Fire Dept. \$10,594
Starbuck Fire Dept. \$8,500
Clinton Fire Dept. \$5,000
Pickwick Volunteer Fire Dept. \$2,900
Erskine Fire Dept. \$5,430
Odessa Fire Dept. \$4,500
Palisade Fire Dept. \$5,300

Least Bittern and Shorebird Studies Continue at Agassiz Refuge Despite Difficult Conditions

Least Bittern Study

Research Technician Karen Arnold of the Gaylord Memorial Lab recently completed her second field season on the Agassiz Least Bittern Nesting Study. The study, which ran May 27 through August 15, is being conducted on three national wildlife refuges - Agassiz, Mingo and Squaw Creek - by Dr. Leigh Fredrickson.

This was to be the last field season of the study; however, due to severe flooding at all sites the study will continue next year.

Twenty-two nests were located on the refuge by June 9, when the flooding occurred. Of the 22 nests found, none survived to produce hatchlings. Three of the nests were abandoned, one was depredated and the remaining 18 were lost to flooding.

Search efforts resumed on June 19 in Headquarters and Madsen pools due to the presence of suitable habitat and bittern activity; 28 nests were located by August 15. Of these 28 nests, 10 were successful, 14 failed and four had an unknown outcome. Of those nests that failed, 10 were depredated, two were abandoned and two were lost due to weather and exposure.

The average number of eggs per nest was 5.1 and the average number of eggs hatched per nest was 2.70. Of those 10 nests thought to be successful, a total of 26 young were

considered to have fledged.

Nests were considered successful if they produced at least one fledgling. Due to the mobility of least bittern young and the increasing complications of catching them as they develop, hatchlings observed until at least six days post-hatch were considered to have a good chance of fledging. Therefore, any nest at which at least one hatchling was observed to have survived at least six days was considered successful.

All data collected during the 2002 field season, along with concurrent data collected at Mingo and Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuges, is being summarized and analyzed.

Shorebird Study

SCEP Student Kari Odefey from the University of Missouri - Columbia, recently completed the first year of a two-year study to determine how climate variability and geomorphic setting influence habitat conditions within wetland complexes. The study's goals are to describe formation and hydrology of wetlands in relation to climatic conditions in northwestern Minnesota and assess shorebird use in and around Agassiz Refuge in relation to habitat conditions associated with climatic conditions and wetland types.

Twelve plots were established on refuge drawdown sites and 33 off-refuge sites included mostly agricultural fields and CRP lands.

Spring surveys were conducted May 6 through June 5. Peak use was May 25. Fifty species of waterbirds, 19 of



- USFWS photo

Research Technician Karen Arnold takes measurements of a least bittern hatchling.

those shorebirds, were recorded. The total number of waterbirds documented was 2,258, of which 774 were shorebirds. Fifty-three percent of the waterbirds recorded were on the refuge.

A dry spring with little snowfall the previous winter left many areas west of the refuge dry. However, a heavy rain on June 9 changed those conditions dramatically. Refuge drawdowns were no longer available to shorebirds. Pools approached water levels similar to the 1997 flood and drawdown levels were not restored until late in the season. Most study sites off-refuge were also impacted.

Fall surveys began July 11. The majority of the shorebirds were using flooded fields. Only one scheduled drawdown pool was available for shorebird use in late August. In September, several others became available. Final results of fall census are not available yet. *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*



- USFWS photo

Common snipe were one of 19 species of shorebirds observed during the first year of this study.

Region Honors Individual, Group and Tribe for Wetland Conservation

A Renville County, Minn., farmer, an Illinois conservation organization and a Wisconsin Native American tribe are among individuals and groups selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive National Wetlands Conservation Awards (NWCA) to the Private Sector.

Daniel Rauenhorst, a farmer from Renville County, Minn., was selected as the NWCA's national runner-up in the individual category for his deliberate, voluntary efforts in restoring drained wetlands and enhancing associated grassland habitats in Renville and Kandiyohi counties.

Rauenhorst, nominated by the Service's Litchfield Wetland Management District, has restored approximately 245 acres of wetlands on his properties. He's also restored, enhanced and protected another 430 acres of associated grasslands.

Regional group winner for the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region was Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., for their efforts in protecting and restoring wetland habitat along the Illinois River in Calhoun and Jersey counties, Ill. In particular, the group helped protect the only known population (in these counties) of the federally threatened plant, decurrent

false aster, by removing 10 acres of encroaching, invasive woody plants. Also, the group was a strong voice and advocate in securing funding for two wetland enhancements totaling more than 3,000 acres of backwater lakes and seasonal wetlands on Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge.

The regional group runner-up was the Ho-Chunk Nation from near Black River Falls, Wis. The Nation became involved with wetland conservation through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program conducted from the Wisconsin Private Lands Office and Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, who have provided funds and technical assistance to the tribe.

During 2001, the Nation restored 75 acres of wetlands and 185 acres of native grasslands on tribal lands in Juneau County.

The three winners selected from



- USFWS photo by Russell Engelke

Refuge Supervisor Jon Kauffeld (third from right) and Two Rivers Refuge Manager John Mabery (second from left) presented Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., with their award at a ceremony on Sept. 28.

the upper Midwest were recognized during ceremonies within their communities.

"We are proud of our regional winners and their achievements," said Bill Hartwig, regional director of the Service's Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region. "It's their commitment and passion to wetland conservation that sets them apart and has influence far beyond the local areas where they are committed to the stewardship of our natural resources." *Steve Kufrin, Refuges and Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR*



Troy Swallow, president of the Ho-Chunk Nation (second from left) accepted the award from Service representatives Jim Ruwalt (far left) and Larry Wargowsky (far right).



Service representatives Barry Christenson, Steve Erickson and Lance Kuester (back row, left to right) presented the Rauenhorst family with their award.

Unique Partnership Stocks Coaster Brook Trout at Isle Royale National Park

This successful stocking event was a joint effort of the Iron River National Fish Hatchery, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Isle Royale National Park staff and vessel, Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery, Region 3 External Affairs and the Ashland Fishery Resource Office. Approximately 50,000 coaster brook trout fingerlings were stocked at three sites on Sept. 24, to help restore remnant brook trout populations at Isle Royale, Michigan.

These coasters were raised at the Genoa and Iron River National Fish Hatcheries from gametes collected at Isle Royale the previous year. Approximately 50,000 fingerlings from the Iron River

hatchery were stocked in Siskiwit Bay, at Hay Point and Senter Point, and a total of 500 fingerlings from the Genoa hatchery were stocked in Rock Harbor. The fish reared at Genoa hatchery were returned to

natal waters per the agreement for coaster brook trout broodstock development.

The fingerlings from Genoa hatchery were loaded onto a stocking tank late in the afternoon of Sept. 23 and then trucked to Iron River hatchery. These fish waited until later that evening when the crew loaded the remaining fingerling into stocking tanks, one of which was borrowed from the Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery. At approximately 1:30

a.m. on Sept. 24, the trucks departed to Houghton, Mich.

Dawn saw the three trucks pulling into the dock at Houghton.

There, the five stocking tanks were loaded onto the National Park Service's

M/V Ranger III, a 165-foot vessel that is used to transport freight and passengers to Isle Royale. The Ranger III and her crew deviated from their usual route and headed to Siskiwit Bay for the stocking of the

fingerlings. This allowed the brook trout to be stocked after a five and a half hour boat trip. The fingerlings were stocked off the bow of the Ranger III, a first for this stocking event. Things went smoothly, and after stocking at the two points, the Ranger III



Ashland FRO Biologist Glenn Miller (foreground) carefully measures, identifies and records each fish captured before they are released.



- USFWS photos by Chuck Traxler

While on Isle Royale, fykes nets are placed at several locations to capture fish for assessment.

proceeded to Mott Island to dock and off load the remaining 500 fingerlings.

This stocking program is working towards meeting the goals of rehabilitating the Siskiwit Bay population of coaster brook trout as outlined in the Brook Trout Rehabilitation Plan for Lake Superior (Newman, et al. 1999). The primary goal of the program is to rehabilitate the Siskiwit Bay coaster brook trout to ensure its long-term sustainability through the presence of six or more age groups (0-5 years) and a spawning population exhibiting sufficient densities, ensuring a viable gene pool.

Crews from the Ashland FRO are conducting annual electrofishing and fykes net surveys in the Siskiwit Bay area to assess stocking efforts.

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO



Iron River National Fish Hatchery Biologist Steve Redman oversees the stocking of 50,000 coaster brook trout fingerlings from the deck of the

A Successful Fifteen Years of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in Minnesota

Since the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) was established in 1987, the Minnesota conservation partners have contributed more than \$350 million (non-farm program), affecting more than 450,000 acres of habitat. An upcoming report highlighting 15 years of the program will combine Minnesota's accomplishments (outlined below) with the four other states in the joint venture.

The Minnesota Focus - Farm the Best and Restore the Rest

In 15 years, the Minnesota partners have evolved from primarily a priority watershed focus to landscape conservation planning providing multiple wildlife benefits. Earlier efforts focused on the Heron Lake, Swan Lake and Minnesota River watersheds, restoring as much marginal farmland as was feasible. These efforts were extremely suc-

cessful and were assisted by nearly a dozen North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants awarded to partners in these watersheds. In addition, the partners were successful in getting a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program designation in the Minnesota River watershed, providing additional dollars and focus to the Conservation Reserve Program in the state.

Recently, partners began to direct their organizations' activities using planning tools developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) office in Fergus Falls.

The HAPET office is providing conservation planning maps and models to focus restoration efforts on providing viable landscapes for waterfowl, grassland-nesting songbirds and nesting and migrant shorebirds. In addition, HAPET is also addressing the needs of non-traditional partners interested in flood control, water quality and mitigation opportunities by providing "restorable wetlands" maps for drained, agricultural landscapes using intensive, state-of-the-art photo interpretation. Partners in this effort include the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Red River Watershed Districts, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Dakota State University, Ducks Unlimited and others.

A state-wide funding initiative through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) called the "Habitat Corridors" project was begun in 2000 and will provide Minnesota conservation partners with additional state-appropriated funds (from lottery proceeds) for at least the next 10 years. This initiative focuses on providing contiguous corridors or

blocks of habitat via federal waterfowl production areas, state wildlife management and natural areas, shallow waterfowl lakes, native prairie remnants, private preserves, grassland restoration areas and riparian habitat corridors. The initiative strives to meet the needs of all the conservation partners and their constituents while still targeting those efforts for maximum effectiveness.

Active nongovernmental partners in this effort include Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, the Trust for Public Lands and many others, as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Results

Breeding populations of ducks and geese in Minnesota have continued to climb steadily since the dry period of the mid-1980s, in a direct relationship with water availability (pond numbers) in the state. Breeding duck populations peaked in 1995 at more than 400,000 pairs, with a slight decline thereafter noted for some species.

The most common breeders in the state including mallards, blue-winged teal and wood ducks, all continue to fare well. State-wide duck recruitment rates average .50 for PPJV counties.

Priority species exhibiting slight population declines during this same period include northern pintail and scaup. Restored wetland/prairie complexes in the state will become increasingly important to breeding and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds if drought returns to the western PPJV areas. *Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture*

2002 Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Award Winners Announced

Organization Award - *Carlyle Lake Waterfowlers Association*

Carlyle Lake Waterfowlers Association (Illinois) is a private organization concerned with the management of wetlands on the site since the early 1980s.

Partnership Award - *Margaret (Peg) Kohring, The Conservation Fund*

Peg Kohring is responsible for projects in the 10 states of the Upper Midwest, with a focus on developing partnerships.

Professional Award - *Mr. John Tranquilli, Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

John Tranquilli's long career has been dedicated to the people and natural resources of southern Illinois, most recently as the Director of Region 5 for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Service's Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys 3.5 Million Sea Lampreys

Thousands of Lake Trout Saved

Between May 7 and Sept. 18, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's sea lamprey control program treated 28 Great Lakes streams (15 in Lake Michigan, eight in Lake Superior and five in Lake Huron) with lampricide to destroy larval sea lamprey populations.

These treatments destroyed an estimated 3.5 million sea lampreys including about 155,000 that would have metamorphosed to the parasitic phase in 2002 and entered the Great Lakes. There, each parasitic phase sea lamprey would have been capable of killing upwards of 40 pounds of lake trout during its year-long life in the lakes.

The Service's sea lamprey control program is conducted under contract with the Great Lakes Fishery

Commission. The successful control program continues to ensure sport fish rehabilitation in the Great Lakes and protects a fishery valued at over \$4 billion. *Dennis Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*



Biologists from the Ludington and Marquette Biological Stations in Michigan applied lampricide to 28 Great Lakes tributaries. The chemical used, TFM, destroys larval sea lamprey present in the streambed.



- USFWS photos by Ellie Koon

Big Muddy Refuge Staffer Helps at the West's Worst Wildfires

This summer was yet another record breaking fire season across the west. Tim Haller, park ranger at Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, was able to

assist with fires in Colorado and Oregon. Haller went on assignments in June and August serving as helicopter crew member and deck coordinator on both assignments.

The assignment in Colorado was on the Coal Seam fire that threatened the community of Glenwood Springs and grew to 12,300 acres before it was contained. Several homes were lost, but many more were saved as firefighters struggled with gale force winds and nearly vertical terrain.

Haller served as deck coordinator on the helibase located at Colorado Mountain College just outside of Glenwood Springs.

"This was an excellent location for the base," explained Haller. "The smoke was almost never a problem for the ships and they could fly to and from the fire without flying over populated areas."

As Deck Coordinator, Haller facilitated the logistics of the helibase including determining the

location of landing pads, coordination of cargo and personnel transport and meeting the needs of pilots and personnel on the helibase.

Haller's other assignment for the summer was on the Biscuit fire in Southwestern Oregon. This fire turned out to be the biggest in the country this year and the third largest fire in Oregon's recorded history. This fire reached almost 500,000 acres. "It was a monster," said Haller. "Most fires you can fly a helicopter around in minutes, this one took hours." At one time several communities were threatened and thousands of people were evacuated. The fire burned almost 95 percent of the wilderness area.

Haller considered both assignments as a way to gain considerable experience. "This type of work helps me in my everyday job as well" explained Tim, "I build on my coordination and stress management skills exponentially." *Tim Haller, Big Muddy NFWR*



- NIFC photo by Kari Brown

Haller worked as a helicopter crewmember and deck coordinator on two fires this summer.

Lake Sturgeon Stocked at White Earth Reservation

The White Earth Natural Resources Department, assisted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Rainy River First Nations, entered into an agreement to restore lake sturgeon in White Earth Lake and Round Lake on the White Earth Reservation.

In 1926, a lake sturgeon weighing



- USFWS photo by Scott Yess

White Earth Tribal Elder and Spiritual Leader Joe Bush blesses the lake sturgeon prior to stocking.

176 pounds was caught in White Earth Lake. However, since the turn of the century, lake sturgeon populations have declined due to over-harvest, pollution and water development projects. The last record of a lake sturgeon in this area came from Lake Lida in 1957.

Lake sturgeon are primitive fish that historically inhabited many of Minnesota's large rivers and the lakes associated with those rivers. Native American cultures were partially dependent on the availability of lake sturgeon. Indian villages were often located near waters where sturgeon spawned.

Early European settlement on Lake of the Woods was due to commercial fishing for lake sturgeon when their caviar and fine flesh were wanted worldwide.

It is a goal of the resource agencies to restore lake sturgeon to this part of its original range. The management plan calls for 8,000 fingerlings to be stocked in White Earth Lake and another 5,000 fingerling to be stocked in Round Lake.

Approximately 8,000 fingerling lake sturgeon were stocked into

White Earth Lake and another 5,000 were stocked in Round Lake in early September by the White Earth Natural Resources Department and the Service.

These fish traveled a long way to reach their final destination. The effort began in May at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery in Canada. Personnel from the White Earth Natural Resources Department and LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office assisted Joe Hunter and his staff at the First Nations Hatchery with spawning over 50 adult lake sturgeon. Prior to spawning, fin clips were analyzed by the LaCrosse Fish Health Center for viral diseases. The eggs were then transported to Genoa National Fish Hatchery. The staff at Genoa did a fantastic job raising over 13,000 lake sturgeon to fingerling size (6-inches) and transporting them to the White Earth Reservation.

Volunteers assisted Service personnel with tagging each sturgeon so their origin can be traced.

On the stocking day, Tribal Spiritual Leader Joe Bush, led a ceremony to bless the fish. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

Ducks Unlimited Dedication Ceremony Held at Shiawassee Refuge

Ducks Unlimited held a dedication ceremony at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge on Sept. 20. The dedication ceremony and the monument unveiled commemorated a long-term, outstanding partnership for conservation between Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Shiawassee.

Since 1998, Ducks Unlimited has helped fund five projects designed to protect, restore and enhance 912 acres of wetland habitat on the refuge to benefit waterfowl, other wildlife and those who enjoy them.

The partnership also extends onto

private lands within the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Since 1998, Ducks Unlimited has provided funding and in-kind services to support and expand the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program conducted by Shiawassee Private Lands Biologist Jim Hazelman. As of June 2002, approximately 385 projects restoring 2,276 acres of wetland and associated uplands have been completed under this partnership.

Fifty-five individuals, foundations and corporations were recognized for their financial support of Ducks Unlimited at the ceremony and are

listed on the monument. *Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*



- USFWS photo by Becky Goche

Refuge Manager Doug Spencer (right) and Erie Etzel of Ducks Unlimited unveil the monument.

Focus Events Highlight Plans For State Centennial Celebrations

Celebrations and other events marking the 100th birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System in Region 3 were profiled during a day-long meeting of state centennial coordinators and members of the regional management team at the Regional Office at Ft. Snelling. Information about refuge activities and plans were briefed by the state coordinators. More than 125 events are planned across the region, exposing more than 500,000 people to the refuge system, "America's Best Keep Secret."

In addition to the numerous events planned for Midwest refuges, each state will sponsor a focus event during the Centennial year — Mar. 14, 2003 through Mar. 14, 2004. "Focus events" are major events, employing regional staff from all resource programs designed to cast a bright light on the refuge system through attendance by federal, state and local legislators, Service and refuge partners and members of the news media.

Focus events in the works for

Region 3 include a week-long Celebrating a Century of Conservation tour of the upper Mississippi River aboard the American Queen, the largest riverboat in the nation. The tour begins July 26 under the Arch in St. Louis, Mo., with stops at selected river towns in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The tour includes on-board wildlife interpretation, other refuge system events and a tour concluding event at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minn., on Aug. 3.

Other focus events include an August VIP boat tour of one of the Great Lakes' largest heron and egret rookeries on West Sister Island Refuge in Lake Erie; the National



- USFWS photo

Puddles continues to travel the region highlighting the refuge system and the Centennial. Puddles is seen here during a parade in Middle River, Minn.

Convention of the Outdoor Writers Association in Missouri in June; Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Directors meeting at Iowa's DeSoto NWR in July; and, Cranefest at Wisconsin's Necedah NWR in September.

The scope of the Centennial events are still being planned. Details about these events and others will be communicated to employees and the public as they are developed. State committee membership includes representatives from all resource programs in Region 3 and are led by a refuge representative.

The regional director has indicated the Centennial is a cause for a "Service-wide" celebration and should include all members of the region.

State committee chairpersons are: Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR, Minnesota; Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR, Wisconsin; Pam Steinhaus, Savanna District-Upper Mississippi River NWR, Illinois; Nancy Gilbertson, Neal Smith NWR, Iowa; Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR, Michigan; Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR, Missouri; Rebecca Hinkle, Ottawa NWR, Ohio. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*



- USFWS photo by Mary Stefanski

Rice Lake Refuge Maintenance Mechanic Dean Huhta is helping his refuge gear up for the increase in attention and visitors the Centennial will bring by installing a new sign on the visitor

"Into the Outdoors" Television Show Highlights Service Paddelfish Program

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and volunteers from the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and the La Crosse Fish Health Center assisted staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Discover Wisconsin Productions in highlighting the Service's paddlefish research and management activities in western Wisconsin's Chippewa River for presentation in an upcoming episode of 'Into the Outdoors.' This popular, award-winning weekly children's television program is broadcast in portions of Iowa and Minnesota, as well as throughout Wisconsin. The television show is a key outreach tool for the Wisconsin DNR's highly successful and multi-faceted Environmental Education for Kids initiative.

When La Crosse FRO staff were approached by the Wisconsin DNR to lead a group of young volunteers and demonstrate how radio telemetry is used to learn more about this unique and seldom seen species, they enthusiastically accepted the opportunity.

With a three-person film crew

recording the sights and sounds along a scenic reach of the lower Chippewa River near Eau Claire, the youth helped set and retrieve nets that yielded a 46-pound paddlefish in a matter of minutes.

The young actors then watched as Service staff proceeded to quickly mark the fish with identity tags. Shortly after the multi-tagged fish was released, the children had an opportunity to determine its location in the river by tracking the source of the signal broadcast from the radio transmitter tag, just as Service fishery biologists do to identify the types of habitats that are preferred by this ancient species in modified rivers like the Chippewa.

The children thoroughly enjoyed



- Photo courtesy of Discover Wisconsin Productions, Inc.
LaCrosse FRO biologists demonstrate tagging procedures on a paddlefish as students watch and "Into the Outdoors" television records the

their 'Into the Outdoors' adventure with paddlefish ... an educational adventure that many other children in the Midwest will also be able to enjoy early next year.

NOTE: Broadcast of the paddlefish radio telemetry episode is tentatively set for March 2003. Consult your local television listings or the 'Into the Outdoors' website (<http://www.intotheoutdoors.org>) for broadcast stations and times. *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

700 Students Attend Environmental Education Days at Sherburne Refuge

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was a host site for the annual Environmental Education Days attended by 700 students and 50 teacher/parent chaperones from six schools in Sherburne County and one school in Benton County on Sept. 16 - 19.

This was the first trip to the refuge for many students. The students spent half of the day at the refuge and half of the day at Sand Dunes State Forest. The event was a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the University of Minnesota Extension Service - Sherburne County; Minne-

sota Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Division, Waters Division and Law Enforcement Division; the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Refuge staff and volunteers hosted programs on bald eagle management and prescribed burning.

Teacher evaluations show that this day of environmental education programs is a highlight of the year for the students. Many of the teachers say that they refer back to the EE Days activity sessions in lessons they teach throughout the school

year. *Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*



- USFWS photo by Nancy Haugen
Sherburne Refuge Biologist Jeanne Holler talks with students during Environmental Education

Ecological Services Teams up to Find Endangered Dragonfly in Missouri

The Hine's emerald dragonfly was listed as federally endangered in 1995. In 1999, Linden Trial with the Missouri Department of Conservation found an adult Hine's emerald dragonfly in Reynolds County, Mo., and sent the specimen to Tim Vogt at the Illinois State Museum for verification. This was the first Hine's emerald dragonfly recorded in Missouri.

This finding is an example of how developing partnerships and practicing the Secretary of Interior's "4 C's" - cooperation, consultation, communication, and conservation - are working to achieve recovery efforts for one of the rarest dragonflies in the world.

In 2002, the Columbia Ecological Services Field Office hosted its second workshop on the Hine's emerald dragonfly with presenta-

tions from researchers from the University of Illinois and the Illinois State Museum. Attendees of the workshops included agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey, academics and others interested in the dragonfly. In these workshops, attendees learned about species taxonomy, how to identify it in the larval and adult stages and its habitat characteristics. This educational effort has led to the discovery of five new sites in Missouri during the 2002 field season.

In 2002, the Chicago Ecological Services Field Office published the "Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Recovery Plan." This plan was written in cooperation with the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Recovery Team which

includes professors, researchers, land managers and federal, state and nongovernmental agency employees.

In 2002, the Chicago Field Office, Columbia Field Office and the Missouri Department of Conservation pooled their resources to fund additional site surveys in Missouri. These surveys have resulted in the verification of eight new sites in Missouri. In addition, many other interesting findings have been discovered about the ecology of the species and dragonfly taxonomy.

This effort shows that partnerships and the "4 C's" are not just buzz words. These principles benefit not only the parties involved, but most importantly the resource itself. *Kristopher Lah, Chicago ES Field Office*

Northeastern Michigan's Eichorn Bridge to be Restored in 2003

The coldwater fish community in the Thunder Bay River will soon be able to freely access the main branch of the river. A series of four culverts placed at the Thunder Bay River/McMurphey Road crossing in the 1950s will be removed and replaced with a single span bridge. Removal of these culverts will open 20 miles of river allowing fish passage. The road approaches to the bridge will be regraded and paved and proper sediment basins and ditches will be installed, thanks to a series of state and federal grants.

Funding was received from a Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant, a Michigan State Police FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish Passage Program. The Alpena

Fisheries Resource Office has been working with cooperators and the Montmorency County Road Commission since 1998, encouraging the partnership to apply for funding.

The Thunder Bay River/McMurphey Road Crossing has been considered by natural resource

agencies as the worst road/stream crossing in northeastern Michigan. An estimated 200 tons of sediment is washed into the river annually due to steep road gradients and the lack of ditches or sediment basins.

Additionally, the road washes out every spring due to the undersized culverts. Upstream fish passage at the site is effectively blocked due to water velocities through the culverts.

The bridge and roadwork, scheduled for installation in the summer of 2003, will alleviate all sedimentation and fish passage issues. The single-span structure will allow for passage of recreational boaters (canoes and kayaks) as well.

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO



- USFWS photo by Heather Enterline

Eichorn Bridge will be replaced to allow for increased fish passage, less sediment deposition and recreational boating.

Comprehensive Conservation Planning Continues to Move Forward

The final stage of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Litchfield Wetland Management District was completed when public open houses were conducted recently. On the evening of Sept. 3, an open house was held in Litchfield, Minn., at the Meeker County Family Services Center, and on Sept. 9, a second open house was held at the Paynesville Area Center in Paynesville, Minn.

Several staff from the district participated by preparing displays, posters and maps for these events as well as staffing the open houses.

Displays presented the missions and purposes of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Wetland Districts. Additional displays summarized the objectives and goals of the district as discussed in the CCP. Still other displays presented examples of management activities, biological monitoring and GIS technology used on the District.

Visitors had the opportunity to review the CCP and summary, view the displays and talk to the project leader and other staff members. Several written comments were

received. *Mary Soler, Litchfield WMD*



- USFWS photo by Bev Meyer

Litchfield WMD Manager Barry Christenson discusses his WMD's Comprehensive Conservation Plan during an open house in Litchfield, Minn.

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between Sept. 1 and Sept. 30, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

Fish Community Health Assessment at Crab Orchard Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Management of Shovelnose Sturgeon in Ohio and Wabash Rivers

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

FmHA Easement Seeded in Wadena County

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Fall 2002 Seed Harvest Completed with New Combine

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Fergus Falls WMD Fall Spraying

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Ashland Fishery Office Assist with Native American Conference

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Habitat Conservation Plan Continues to Protect Indiana's Only Colony of Least Terns

Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

Evaluation of Innovative Shoreline Protection at Crab Orchard Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Efforts in the Middle Mississippi River

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Coordination and Management of Ohio River Sturgeon

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Multi-Agency Coordination for Recovery of the Federally Endangered Pallid Sturgeon

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Management of Mississippi River Basin Paddlefish Stocks

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Mississippi River Fish Community Response to Dredge Spoil Placement

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Recreational Fishing and Public Use Opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office facilitates Improved Fish Passage in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Assists in Mitigation of Endangered Mussels in the Ohio River

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Protects Aquatic Resources by Inspecting triploid grass carp

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Supports Natural Resource Management Program at Crane Naval Base, Ind.

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville FRO Supports Cooperative Paddlefish Management Throughout the Mississippi Basin.

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Helps Improve Fishing and Resource Management at Scott Air Force Base

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at Crab Orchard Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Understanding Asian Carp Habitat Utilization at the Middle Mississippi River Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Restoration of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Upper Ohio River Basin

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Service Works With Partners to Conserve Indiana's Only Gray Bat Maternity Colony

Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

Illinois River Fish Community Response to Dredge Spoil Placement

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

First Year of Agassiz Refuge Shorebird Study Completed

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

Educating Upper Mississippi River Resource Managers About Black Carp

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Region 3 Contracting and General Services 2002 Activity Summary

Robert Hansen, ABA-CGS

Alpena Fisheries Office Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Erskine Minnesota Fire Department Receives Fire Assistance Grant

rick julian, Rydell NWR

New Biological Monitoring Initiated at the Litchfield Wetland Management District

mary soler, Litchfield WMD

Tree Removal Continues to Benefit Prairie Areas

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

University Students Study Waterfowl Production Area Management

Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD

Kid's Fishing Derby at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

September Diversity Report

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Congressional Aide Tours The Nation's Oldest Federal Fish Hatchery

David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Illinois Conservation Group Receives National Conservation Award

Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR

Tamarac Fall Open House A Success

Janice Bengtson, Tamarac NWR

Agassiz Refuge Studies Reported at Ornithological Conference

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

Big Muddy Refuge Helps Clean the Big Muddy River

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Agassiz Refuge Staff and Puddles Participate in Local Parades

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

Horicon Refuge Hosts 3rd National Public Lands Day Event

Diane Kitchen, Horicon NWR

Eichorn Bridge to be Restored in 2003

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Binational Program Committees and Work Group Meet

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Long Term Care Information Now Available

Linda Krupinski, ABA (Personnel)

Fergus Falls Staff Details During Fiscal Year 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Ecosystem Approach to Conserving Lake Sturgeon Presented at South Dakota State University

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Predator Scent Post Surveys Completed in Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

100 Students Attend Horicon Refuge's First Virtual Field Trip

Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

Big Muddy Refuge Supports Childrens Craft Festival in Arrow Rock, Mo

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

DeSoto Law Enforcement Officer Rescues Stranded Boater

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

ESA Listing Prioritization Stakeholder Caucuses Held

Jean Cochrane, Twin Cities FO

2002 Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Venture Awards Announced

Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture

ESPN Outdoors Films at Sherburne NWR

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Agassiz Refuge Replaces Water Control Structure

Dave Bennett, Agassiz NWR

Chronic Wasting Disease, West Nile Virus and Hunting Seasons Featured on Local TV

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Unique Partnering Event Stocks Coaster Brook Trout at Isle Royale National Park.

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Lake Huron Lake Trout Task Group Working to Enhance Rehabilitation Effort

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Illinois Man Pleads Guilty in Federal Court to Illegally Purchasing Hide of Endangered Tiger

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Regional Future Farmers of America Rally at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Journalists Observe Trawling for Aquatic Nuisance Species

Gary Czipinski, Ashland FRO

Ducks Unlimited Dedication Ceremony Held at Shiawassee Refuge

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

More Than 300 Attend Water Festival at Rydell Refuge

rick julian, Rydell NWR

Service Biologist Attends Modeling Subcommittee of the Technical Fisheries Committee Meeting

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

A Successful Fifteen Years of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in Minnesota

Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture

Norwegian Creek Opened to Fish Passage

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Marketing Group Visit And Tour The Nation's Oldest Federal Fish Hatchery

David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Fergus Falls WMD Water Level Management During 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Canada Lynx Research in Minnesota

Jean Cochrane, Twin Cities FO

700 Students Attend Environmental Education Days at Sherburne Refuge

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Fiscal Year 2002 Financial Operations

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Diversity

Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

Kaskaskia Watershed Association Develops an Ecosystem Approach to Issues and Opportunities Report

Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO

Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Annual Meeting

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Wisconsin Private Land Office Hosts Grassland Restoration Technical Session

Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

Unique Partnership Provides \$500,000 for Wetland Restoration in Chicago Area

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys 3.5 Million Sea Lampreys, Thousands of Lake Trout Saved

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Great Lakes Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Meeting Features Tribal Service Partnerships

John Leonard, External Affairs

Senator Bond's District Office Director Toured the Neosho National Fish Hatchery

David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Service Participates in Hispanic Heritage Seminar

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Conducts Visitor Surveys

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Has Service Exhibits at Indiana State Fair

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Hey, Do Ya Want an Historical Lighthouse?

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

La Crosse Fishery Office Assists Geologic Survey

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Ashland FRO Assists Tribes With Fall Walleye Surveys

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Muscatatuck Refuge Has Centennial Exhibit at County Fair

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

4 C's" Help Partners Conserve Endangered Dragonfly"

Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO

Twenty-three Properties Delineated for Potential Purchase

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Students Get Hands-On Restoration Experience

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

Fergus Falls Law Enforcement Program Summary for 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Congressional Contacts On a Number of Natural Resources Issues

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Young Waterfowlers Program a Hit at Minnesota Valley Refuge

Terry Schreiner, Minnesota Valley NWR

Lake Erie Waters Snake Outreach Continues

Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO

Coastal Funding Helps Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Recovery

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

Fire Line Construction and Grove Removal at Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Hosts A World Of Difference" Workshop "

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Wetland Restoration on Waterfowl Production Areas During 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Summer 2002 Weed Control at Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Waterfowl Production Area Improvements in Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Fergus Falls Fire Department Receives Rural Fire Assistance Grant

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Indiana Awarded Grant to Develop Habitat Conservation Plan for Endangered Indiana Bats

Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

Lake Sturgeon Restoration Remains a Priority at Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH

Biologists Attend U.S. Forest Service Northern Goshawk Habitat Workshop

Robert Russell, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Hubbard Lake Sportsman's Club Receives Update on Service Double-Crested Cormorant Management Plan

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Chicago Field Office Coordinates Review of Sikes Act Plan for Great Lakes Naval Training Center

Michael Redmer, Chicago FO

Management Group Continues to Work Towards Clean-up Levels for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge Receives \$ 999,800 NAWCA Grant

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Michigan's Little Traverse Conservancy Receives \$850,000 Grant to Protect Habitats

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Chicago Partnership Assists Landowners and Improves Wildlife Habitat

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Receives \$1 Million Grant For Habitat Projects

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy Receives \$1 Million Grant for Habitat Projects

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Kirtland's Warbler Recovery: A Continued Success

Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO

Green Bay Fishery Office Completes Lake Whitefish Assessment in Lake Michigan

Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO

Annual Deer Hunt For Persons With Disabilities Taking Applications

rick julian, Rydell NWR

Litchfield Wetland District Holds Open Houses for Comprehensive Conservation Planning

mary soler, Litchfield WMD

First Year of Lake Sturgeon Assessments in Four Green Bay Tributaries Completed

Brian Gunderman, Green Bay FRO

Lake Sturgeon Stocked at White Earth Reservation

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Rydell Deer Hunt Clinic Participation Down This Year

rick julian, Rydell NWR

Shiawassee Refuge Hosts Open House Weekend

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Jordan River NFH Participates in the Northland Sportsman Club's Family, Fishing and Hunting Expo

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Big Muddy Refuge Staffer Helps at the Wests Worst Wildfires

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Veden Trust Visits Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

DCR Revamps Its Intranet Site

Arlene White, ABA (DCR)

More Than 300 Wetlands Field Assessed In Kane County, Ill.

Jeffrey Mengler, Chicago FO

Green Bay Fishery Office Assists Oneida Nation

Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Agreement Reached on After the Fact Permit at Riversouth Parcel

Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Helps Educate Wisconsin Students

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Ruffe on the Move in Lake Superior

Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Common Tern Colony Produces on Mille Lacs NWR

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Budget and Finance - Gallup Survey Action

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Fish Passage Restored to Stony Creek in Michigan

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Service Helps Sturgeon Bay Hold Festival Featuring its Namesake - Lake Sturgeon

Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO